

INTERNATIONAL

India, Afghanistan blamed

Pakistan orders train blast investigation

LAHORE, Pakistan, May 7, (AP): The government ordered an investigation today into the bombing of an express train in which 13 passengers died, and one official suggested India or Afghanistan might have been involved.

No one claimed responsibility for yesterday's blast, which also injured 40 people.

"I do not rule out the possibility of either an Indian or Afghan hand behind it," Railways Minister Zaffar Leghari told reporters hours after

a 5-pound (2 kilogramme) bomb ripped through the first-class car of an express train bound for the southern port city of Karachi.

Twelve people died at the scene, and one person died of massive injuries at a Lahore hospital today, authorities said.

The accident occurred less than 10 miles (16 kms) from the border with India, which blames Pakistan for two violent secessionist movements in the Indian states of Punjab and Jammu-Kashmir.

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

The army joined paramilitary forces in providing security but shops and businesses remained shut in response to the strike call by several leading militant groups. India says the groups are armed and trained by Pakistan, charges Islamabad denies.

In a related development, police said two militants shot dead a woman suspected of being a government informer this afternoon in the Karan Nagar area of Srinagar.

The gunmen escaped, and police said a massive search had been launched.

Militants also clashed with security forces in three separate locations in Srinagar.

In the only encounter that produced casualties, three security force personnel were injured when militants fired automatic weapons and lobbed a grenade at a checkpoint at Natipora about 1.30 am, police said.

Security forces returned fire, but the militants escaped, police said.

Gov. Jagmohan, who has administered the state

on New Delhi's behalf since the uprising began, held a three-hour meeting with senior officials to the secretariat, the government's administrative headquarters, and later said that the decision to proceed with the move from Jammu to Srinagar was aimed at normalising the situation in the strife-torn city.

"With the shifting of the secretariat and other offices from Jammu to Srinagar, we are entering an important phase in our efforts to normalise conditions in the state," Jagmohan said. "Our job is to remain cool and face the current challenge with courage."

Over the past five weeks, the state government has detained about 1,500 people, maintained long curfews and conducted house-to-house searches to try to crush the rebellion.

Delhi fears north-eastern militants will soon cross into the valley from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir through high Himalayan passes opened by melting snows.

"Those who want to distract attention from what is happening inside India have a motive to do something in Pakistan," said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

On Pakistan's western border, mujahideen are waging a 12-year-old battle to overthrow Afghanistan's communist government. The rebels are armed by the United States and Saudi Arabia, and based in Pakistan.

Hundreds of bombs have exploded in Pakistan's cities and villages in recent years. Most have occurred in the North-West Frontier Province and are routinely blamed on agents of the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan.

But Pakistan's Urdu-language newspapers have accused India of involvement in a rash of bombings in the capital Islamabad, neighbouring Rawalpindi and Lahore, the ancient capital of Punjab province. At least four bombs exploded last month in these cities, killing and wounding scores of people.

One police official in Lahore said the bomb on the Tez Gam express, Pakistan's fastest train, was "foreign-made." He refused to elaborate.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the device was set to explode at Lahore's congested downtown railway station but the train was delayed 10 minutes outside the city.

"Had the train not been delayed en route, the bomb would have caused heavier casualties," the official said.

Railway officials ordered stepped-up security on the express train, which originates in Rawalpindi. All passengers were searched with metal detectors before being allowed to board the train for the 22-hour trip.

Gunmen killed five people in the southern Pakistani province of Sindh yesterday, police said. In Hyderabad, gunmen killed a policeman and a bank guard in an attempt to rob a bank's cash vault.

In Karachi, two of three men killed were employees of the local fire brigade and activists of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, a party spokesman said. No details were given of the third man killed.

Ethnic violence in the two cities has taken more than 1,000 lives since 1986. Seventy people were killed in Karachi in political violence last February.

A delegation from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by its chairperson Begum Nusrat Bhutto arrived in China yesterday for a six-day visit at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party, the Xinhua news agency reported.

In the evening, Qiao Shi, member of the standing committee of the political bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, visited Mrs Bhutto at the Diaoyutai state guesthouse where she is staying. Later, Qiao dined together with her and other Pakistani visitors.

The PPP leader said she was pleased to be in Beijing again. This is her sixth visit to China.



Experts examine

Explosives experts examine the wrecked carriage of a Pakistan express train in Lahore after a time-bomb blast on Sunday killed 11 passengers. Police said it was a sabotage. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tamil politician shot dead in Colombo

COLOMBO, May 7, (Agencies): Motorcycle gunmen shot dead a leading Tamil member of parliament and critically wounded his wife in the Sri Lankan capital today, military sources said.

The two gunmen opened fire on the car of politician Sam Thambimuttu as he and his wife Kala drove to the Canadian High Commission (embassy) in Colombo to collect visas.

Police said the identity of the gunmen was not known. Political sources said they were suspected members of the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group.

Thambimuttu, a 58-year-old lawyer, had accused the Tigers of abducting his wife and son for about four days and ransacking his house in Batticaloa earlier this year.

A lawyer, he was a member of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front and was nominated for election by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), an enemy of the Tigers.

The Tigers control the Tamil-inhabited northeast after having driven away fighters of the EPRLF, which won elections to the region's provincial council in 1988.

The Tigers rejected a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord aimed at bringing peace to the region and fought Indian troops sent to implement the accord.

Thambimuttu and his wife were due to leave on Wednesday for a visit to Washington and also planned to visit Canada and Britain. The island newspaper said yesterday the government had alerted Tamil politicians to the presence of a 15-strong hit squad in Colombo. It did not say who the hit squad represented.

A Tamil Tiger rebel official in Jaffna declined to comment on the killing. "Everybody finds it easy to blame us for everything," the official said when contacted by telephone.

The EPRLF and two other pro-Indian Tamil rebel groups contested last year's parliamentary polls under the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the Tamil's most moderate party. The TULF has 10 members in the 225-seat parliament.

Last July the Secretary General of the TULF and a lawmaker, Appalillai Amirthalingam and another senior member Vettivelu Yogeswaran were shot dead by three gunmen in their residence in Colombo.

Two held for marine killing

No effect on base talks

MANILA, May 7, (Agencies): Police arrested two drug addicts suspected of killing a US marine sergeant in the Philippines, the military said today, but travel restrictions imposed on American servicemen after the shooting remained in force.

The Philippine military had earlier said they suspected communist guerrillas of the shooting of Sergeant John Fredette on Friday outside the US Subic Bay naval base in Olongapo city, north of Manila.

The paramilitary constabulary said the two suspects, Billy Burke and Ray Angeles, were arrested yesterday and early today in their homes in Olongapo.

"Initial investigation revealed that both suspects are drug addicts and discounted the possibility of political motive in the perpetration of the crime," a constabulary report said.

Officials released no information on whether Angeles and Burke were believed to be members of the New People's Army or assassins hired by the communist guerrilla group.

Police initially speculated the killers were communist rebels. Robbery did not appear the motive because Fredette's watch and wallet were not taken, police said.

Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said some senior officials still suspected the killers were New People's Army guerrillas.

The sources said civilian authorities were eager to exonerate the rebels so the navy would lift restrictions on its personnel.

Police sources also said no test was conducted to determine if the suspects recently fired a weapon or were using drugs.

Despite the arrests, travel restrictions imposed on Saturday by US authorities on some 40,000 American military personnel and their families remained in effect.

Philippine presidential spokesman Adolf Azcuna said today there was need to tighten security on the bases ahead of talks next week on the future of the US facilities, the leases of which expire in September 1991.

"We anticipate some attempts to draw some propaganda value by 'terrorist' activities," Azcuna told reporters, without mentioning any particular group.

US embassy deputy chief of mission Kenneth Quinn said Fredette's killing would not affect the negotiations.

"We were shocked and saddened about that... we've been concerned about security in general for the Americans and we've taken appropriate steps," Quinn told reporters in Manila. "It won't have any effect on the talks."

Two grenades were hurled from a car in a commercial district in the Philippine capital at dawn today, injuring three bystanders and slightly damaging a bank, police said.

They said they had made no arrests and were still trying to find out the motive for the blasts.

No casualties

Air India jet catches fire

NEW DELHI, May 7, (AP): An Air India jumbo jet on a flight from London to Bombay caught fire minutes before a scheduled stopover in New Delhi today, but the pilot managed to land the plane safely, airlines sources said.

There were 195 passengers and a 20-member crew on board the aircraft.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the captain noticed the fire in the rear engines five minutes before the plane was to land.

An emergency was declared at Indira Gandhi International Airport, the plane landed and all passengers were evacuated. Firefighters put the blaze out after several minutes.

Summit

(Continued from Page 1)

The Jordanian monarch, who also has been seeking to mediate an end to the vendetta between Syria and Iraq, is a close ally of Saddam and visited him at the weekend.

Abdallah made no arrival statement in Amman. But a senior Jordanian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that "we believe an Arab summit will be convened for sure this month" in Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt have been making strenuous efforts to persuade Assad to go to Baghdad and end his feud with Saddam. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrived in Cairo today and insisted that an emergency Arab summit would be held in Baghdad despite Syrian opposition.

"There are no contacts to change the venue, since it has been agreed that it will be held in Baghdad," Aziz told reporters on arrival at Cairo airport.

Aziz, who is both foreign minister and deputy prime minister, said the summit would deal with what he called threats to Arab security, an apparent reference to Soviet Jews emigrating to Israeli-occupied territories, and to recent Western criticism of Iraqi policies.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat criticised today some Arab leaders for not responding to the invitation to an emergency Arab summit he proposed he convene in Baghdad to discuss the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"I have been touring Arab countries over the past two months to get support for an Arab summit conference... and until now I got no response for its time, agenda, etc," Arafat said.

The Palestinian leader was speaking at the opening of an Arab conference in solidarity with Iraq in its current war of words with the United States, Britain and Israel. "Some Arab leaders" are even suggesting we postpone the Arab summit (until)... after the Bush-Gorbachev summit at the end of this month," Arafat said.

At least 15 of the 22 Arab League members have, formally declared support for the summit.

Arafat is also concerned about changes in Eastern Europe that have swept pro-Arab governments from power, flagging support of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and lack of progress in Middle East peace talks.

Arafat called in his speech on Arab masses to "march towards Palestine, if their leaders refused to act."

Voicing support for Iraq, Arafat said the Israelis have been training recently in "areas which have similar targets to those of Iraq in order to launch aggression on Baghdad."

"When I was marching to call for the Arab summit, I felt there was an American shadow saying 'no'. But I say, the Arab nation must say yes," Arafat said.

Arafat's feud with Saddam and Arab efforts to forge a new unity after years of fragmentation.

Soviets offer dam know-how

MOSCOW, May 7, (Kum): The Soviet Union will offer the know-how for building a dam on the Dasht river in Pakistan's Baluchistan province under a \$150 million contract, the official Soviet news agency Tass reported today.

The Soviet side will carry out a survey, design work and build the dam in the five-to-six year project, it added.

The dam would bring water to tens of thousands of hectares of arid lands and drinking water to the Pakistani province which will pay 30 per cent of the cost of cash and the remnant in consumer goods, Tass said.

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Festival cut short

BIRMINGHAM, May 7, (AP): A four-day Muslim religious festival in the northern English city of Birmingham to celebrate the end of Ramadan was cut short last night after violence broke out.

Police assistant chief constable Tom Meffan said the festival was ended after three days following consultations with community leaders who represent mostly Pakistani families.

He said police had made six arrests for public order offences after disturbances yesterday sparked by fighting between two rival groups of Muslim youths in the city's small Heath Park. Police said more than 1,000 youths threw bottles and rocks at police officers and some hurled bottles on to a main road, damaging passing cars. Order was eventually restored when community leaders used a police public address system to disperse the crowd of teenagers.

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هكذا من الأصل

Thrill of selling fakes at no risk

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida, May 7, (AP): Next door to a lunch counter advertising a grilled cheese special is a gallery where Van Gogh's "Irises" shares the walls with Monet landscapes and works from the Italian Renaissance.

"They're all fakes. They're all for sale."

"A forger? Yes, we're expert forgers you could say. But we make no attempt to deceive. We don't pretend to sell original works. We sell reproductions," said Ernest Thomas Cummins, president of Heritage House Trading Group Ltd.

"We have all the thrill of being a forger, but no risk."

With prices for original art rising into the tens of millions, some art lovers are turning to high-quality copies done by expert artists. In addition, some museums confronting skyrocketing insurance premiums are considering stashing the authentic pieces and displaying a reproduction, said Cummins.

Concern
No major US art museum is known to be displaying reproductions in place of originals. Such a practice would raise questions about why people visit museums in the first place. But museum security has become a growing concern.

Last month, a woman in Amsterdam sprayed a Rembrandt with an acid solution, causing minor damage. In March, thieves dressed as police officers stole 11 paintings and other objects from Boston's Gardner Museum.

Bids for paintings have climbed at auction houses. In 1987, Australian investor Alan Bond agreed to pay a record \$53.9 million for "Irises."

At Fort Lauderdale-based Heritage House, prices run from about \$1,000 to 10,000 for paintings of paintings, depending on the size and complexity of the original, said Cummins, 34, a founder of the Upscale Robb Report magazine. Heritage House, which started producing the repainted masters in 1987, also has a shop in Carmel, California.

"The Heritage House works are full paintings rather than photographs or prints."

"We deal with people who want to live with great art, not just visit it," Cummins said.

A telephone call to the storefront gallery usually begins the three- to four-month process of making a reproduction.

Cummins contacts one of the nearly 200 European artists used by the gallery. In Europe, where copying masterpieces is a centuries-old craft, painters often use pigments and brushes typical of the period of the original.

The painting is placed in a frame closely resembling its era. Sometimes, the gallery purchases 17th century furniture to use the wood for frames, said Cummins.

The final step is the antiquing process using chemicals and heat and humidity. "We can make special types of cracks from little spider-web types to long splits," said Cummins.

Captors kept victim in hole

ARZIGNANO, Italy, May 7, (Reuters): A 20-year-old Italian kidnapped more than two years ago returned home yesterday and said his captors kept him for months in a damp hole in the ground, beating him when he cried.

Bells tolled and thousands of well-wishers turned out to welcome Carlo Celadon to the northern Italian town where he was seized 27 months ago.

Celadon, mentally and physically debilitated by his ordeal, was freed in the bleak Apennine mountains of southern Calabria on Saturday, some 18 months after his Italian father paid a five billion lire \$4 million ransom.

It was believed the largest sum paid to Italian kidnappers.

"They beat him when he cried... they destroyed him," his father Carlo told reporters after police carried his weakened, long-haired son into the house.

'A prodigy with a purpose'

NEW YORK, May 7, (AP): He's 12 years old and his goal is not to set video game scoring records but to be the youngest doctor in the world.

Meet third-year pre-medical student Balamurati Krishna Amba, a prodigy who wants to graduate medical school before he turns 18.

Friedrich Uffers, director of the presidential scholars programme at New York University, which awarded him a full scholarship, is pleased with his pace.

"What is he had told Mozart he was too precocious?" Uffers said.

The youngster mastered calculus at age 4 and described himself as "a prodigy with a purpose" in his college application.

He said that after learning that an Israeli, at 18, was the youngest medical school graduate, he decided that he wanted to beat that record.

Bala was born in India and was 3 when his parents moved to Buffalo, New York. As his father, Ambati Murari, an industrial engineer,

and his mother, Gomathi Rao, a mathematics teacher, moved around the country, Bala skipped grades and excelled.

Some of his professors don't share the enthusiasm of Bala and his family.

"I worry that it is the parents that are pushing," said physics professor Leposava Vuskovic. "It is one thing to perform and be creative, but he just wants to get the degree."

The boy's father said he has had to fight school administrators to get Bala skipped to higher grades. And the idea of a 14-year-old

medical school applicant doesn't sit too well in some quarters.

"I think questions might be legitimately raised about his emotional maturity," said Dr. Andrew Frantz, chairman of the admissions committee at Columbia University's Medical School. "Why does he need to? Why not wait?"

The boy's father won't listen to that kind of talk.

"As we have set this goal, even if he only gets into the worst medical school in New York, we will go for it," Murari said.



'Night of 100 Stars'

Over 100 stars showed up to participate in the 'Night of 100 Stars' benefit for the Actors Fund of America in New York on Saturday. Shown during the finale are (front row from left) Helen Hayes, Katherine Hepburn, Hume Cronyn, Jessica

Tandy, (back row from left) unidentified, Joel Grey, Carol Channing, Pia Zadora, Tony Randall and Walter Cronkite. (Rauter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LAS VEGAS, Nevada: A limousine chauffeur served as witness to the wedding of a Las Vegas singer and a former lead singer of the Everly Brothers.

Rose, 26, and the 24-year-old daughter of Don Everly were married early Saturday at the Chapel Wedding Chapel.

Charles Woodliff, manager of the chapel, said the couple came to the chapel twice before going through with the private five-minute ceremony.

"They were here at midnight first, then they rode around for a few hours in their limousine," he said.

The band has gained notoriety over its use of racial and sexual slurs on its record "One in a Million" and its use of profanity on television. (AP)

MALIBU, California: Surfer Lance Carson and wave-riding friends like actor Gregory Harrison and surfing champion Tom Curran have recorded an album to save their beloved beaches.

Carson bemoans what has happened to the ocean since he began riding waves years ago.

"The water is filthy. There are days when you can smell and see miscellaneous waste floating in the water. Sea life is suffering, and we'd better do something now before it's too late," Carson said last week.

Carson's concern about the ocean led to his participation in the "Wave Sliders in a Blue Room," an album for the non-profit Surfer Foundation. The group works to save beaches imperiled by pollution and development.

"Malibu is the crown jewel of surf spots, and now it's a cesspool," said Carson. (AP)

NEW YORK: Boxer Mike Tyson became a father last week when a baby boy was born to his 24-year-old girlfriend at a hospital in the Upper New York state, the New York Post says.

"I'm very happy to be having a family," Tyson told the Post.

The newspaper report Friday said the child was born Wednesday to Natalie Fears of Los Angeles. The name of the hospital was not given.

The report also says Tyson has no plans to marry Miss Fears but will buy a house in Los Angeles and support the child.

Tyson brought Miss Fears from Los Angeles to the Catskills several months ago, and she has been staying with the woman who helped raise Tyson, Camille Ewald.

Tyson has not yet seen his son because he is training for a June 16 fight with Henry Tillman in Las Vegas, the newspaper said, quoting unidentified sources.

The newspaper says a Los Angeles dancer, Trena Archie, 22, said in February that Tyson is the father of her infant son. Tyson has not acknowledged paternity in that case, the Post said.

Both Tyson and Miss Fears are divorced. (AP)



Bite right

US Vice-President Dan Quayle, seated outside a cafe in Via Veneto in downtown Rome, eats a pastry during a coffee break yesterday. Quayle arrived in Rome last night for the first of a three-day tour of Italy, Britain and France, and will meet Italian government leaders. (Reuters wirephoto)

Charles in Italy Prince shows his sketches

URBINO, Italy, May 7, (AP): Prince Charles humbly showed off his watercolor sketches yesterday in the House of Raphael, the Renaissance artist.

"I still can't believe that my amateur sketching will go on display in Raphael's house," the Prince of Wales said at the invitation-only unveiling of 57 of his watercolors.

"I only hope the great master doesn't turn in his grave," Charles said in a brief remark to inaugurate the show in the house where Raphael Sanzio was born in 1483.

The Raphael Academy is hosting the exhibit, which lasts until June 14.

The exhibit was described as Charles' first public display of his artwork outside the United Kingdom.

Charles drew the sketches of scenes that charmed him during his travels, including the Tuscan countryside, a sandy scene in Saudi Arabia and places in Scotland and Hong Kong.

He described the sketches as "great works of art" but instead, as "constituting 'my kind of photographic album.'"

The prince said he began doing watercolors 20 years ago after finding photography less than satisfying.

"Please remember that all of these sketches were done with immense rapidity, sometimes in the rain, and always on small bits of paper," the prince cautioned.

Hundreds of residents of this walled hill town lined the steep, stone-paved streets to catch a glimpse of him during his three-hour visit.

To shouts of "Carlo, Carlo" (Charles in Italian), the prince strolled through the town and surprised his companions by asking to visit the 15th-century stone palace of the Federici, Duke of Montefeltro, which dominates the town.

He said many fake paintings, such as Dutchman Han van Meegeren's Vermeer forgeries, lose all value when they are unmasked as fakes.

Successful imitations by Michelangelo were said to rival the work of ancient artists but British artist Tom Keating's imitations of Samuel Palmer brought him a visit from the fraud squad.

On show is an exact copy of an original drawing by David Hockney which came up for sale in 1980. During the debate about its authenticity Hockney wrote across it, "This is out my work."

Joos says fakes are normally produced and marketed in a climate of anxiety and provide an excellent guide to what each generation regarded as the hallmarks of authenticity.

Norway skiers reach N. Pole

OSLO, May 7, (AP): Two Norwegian skiers reached the North Pole this weekend — the first people to accomplish the icy trek without animals, machines or outside help, reports said today.

Erling Kagge, 28, and Boerge Ousland, 27, pulled their provisions on sleds, weighing up to 120 kgs (264 pounds), across 800 kms (496 miles) of Arctic ice pack, newspapers said.

At least 12 previous expeditions have tried to reach the Earth's northernmost point without dog sleds, snow vehicles or outside supplies, the Norwegian news agency NTB reported. All failed and none covered more than 170 kms (105 miles), the agency said.

The Norwegians trekked for 58 days to beat British, South Korean and Soviet teams also racing for the Pole, said NTB. The Britons gave up a week ago. The South Koreans had 300 kms (186 miles) to go, despite airlifted supplies.

"They went unbelievably fast," Geir Ramby, a third member of the Norwegian team, told the Verdens Gang (VG) newspaper. He was injured and flown out 10 days into the trek, which began March 8 on the ice pack north of Greenland.

Ramby was in Resolute Bay, Canada, when he received word of his colleagues' triumph after a US military aircraft picked up their radio signal Saturday, reported VG. He said a plane will fly in to pick them up as soon as possible, probably today.

"It's a great accomplishment to reach the North Pole without help. This feat will awaken the attention among those who know how difficult it is to carry out such an expedition," he said to VG.

Kagge and Ousland crossed crevasses, rough ice and skinned patches of open water. They suffered minor frostbite in temperatures that plummeted to minus 55 degrees Centigrade (minus 67 F) but were reported to be in good condition.

Many expeditions have reached the North Pole since it was conquered by American Robert Peary in 1909.

Ramby said his teammates will probably celebrate with a hot shower when they reach Resolute Bay as early as Tuesday.

"After using and sweating in the same clothes for two months, they're probably emitting a pretty powerful stink," he told VG.

Six climbers from the United States, China and the Soviet Union reached the top of Mount Everest today on an expedition intended to foster good will among their nations and clean up the world's highest peak.

The official Xinhua news agency said the six reached the summit of the 8,848-metre (29,028-foot) mountain at 1:30 pm (0430 GMT). It did not say if they carried out their original plan of speaking by telephone from the top with the leaders of their respective nations.

The climbers had also said they would plant the flags of the three nations atop the peak to symbolize achievements that are possible through co-operation.

The six climbers are part of a 46-member expedition that began ascending Everest in March and had hoped to put a few climbers on the top on April 22, Earth Day. On their way back down the mountain, the climbers are to pick up an estimated two tonnes of cans, tents, oxygen bottles and other debris left by previous expeditions.

The climbers neared the peak in late April but high winds forced them to retreat to their base camp. They set out a second time on April 30.

Xinhua said the six who reached the top included Americans Stephen Hall, who operates a mountain guide service in Aspen, Colorado, and Robert Link.

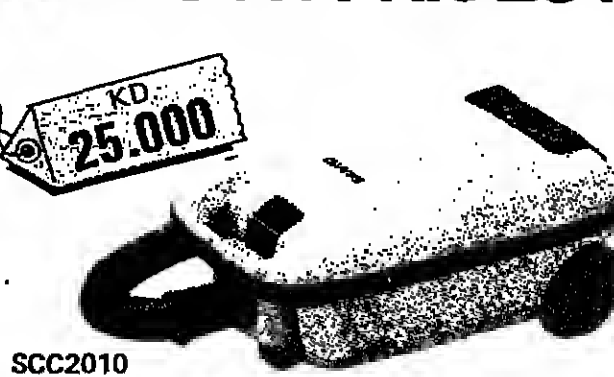
\$35m drug haul
PARIS, May 7, (Reuters): Police seized 380 kg (840 pounds) of cocaine from a light plane on St Martin and arrested eight suspected traffickers on the Caribbean island yesterday, the French Interior Ministry said.

Ministry sources said police suspected the eight were members of Colombia's Cali cocaine cartel. The amount seized on St Martin is part of a French, part Dutch would have an estimated street value of about \$35 million.

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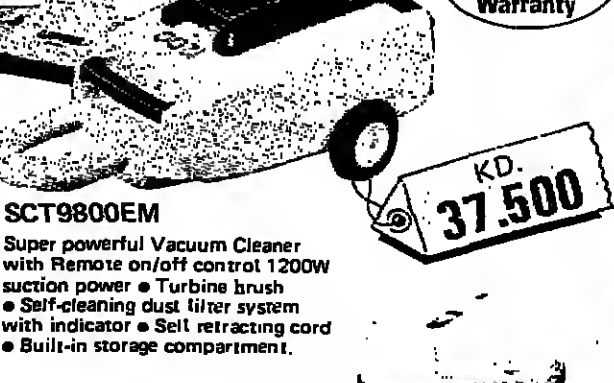
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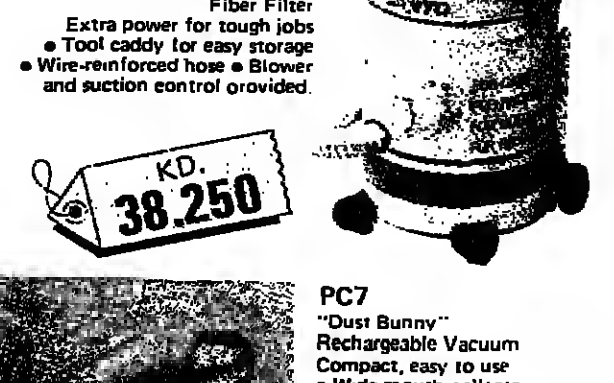
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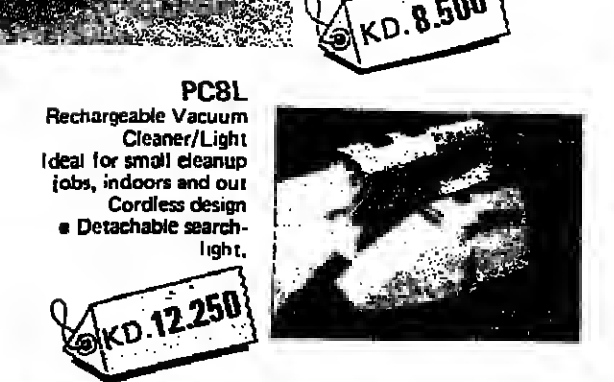
BSC90
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SC19800EM
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BSC1200EM
1200W Vacuum Cleaner with Fiber Filter • Extra power for tough jobs • Tool caddy for easy storage • Wire-reinforced hose • Blower and suction control provided.



PC7
"Dust Bunny" Rechargeable Vacuum Compact, easy to use • Wide-mouth collector



PC8L
Rechargeable Vacuum Cleaner/Light Ideal for small cleanup jobs, indoors and out • Cordless design • Detachable search light.

UK exhibition to give fakes history, cultural values

LONDON, May 7, (Reuters): The British Museum is giving forgers and fakers down the centuries a showcase of their own.

Some 600 artefacts, all fakes or imitations, fill two cavernous rooms in a display of what the exhibition's curator calls "an interesting exercise in honesty" by Britain's biggest museum.

Many of the objects at the exhibition, called "fake: the art of deception," had been prized by collectors as the real thing until more astute observers coined them counterfeit.

A "sixth-century" Sarcophagus on display for 60 years at the British Museum was withdrawn to 1935 after someone noticed its female figure wore 19th-century underwear.

A Botticelli, bought by a collector in 1990 for a massive \$25,000 was exposed after one critic noted the Madonna's face bore too close

a resemblance to a Hollywood screen goddess. Exhibits range from ancient Babylon to modern times and span painting, sculpture and engraving to furniture, jewellery and religious relics. People have faked chastity belts, spurs from the battle of Agincourt in 1415 as well as huts and shrunken heads.

There are forged letters which ruined politicians, retouched photographs removing disgrace figures from the annals and passes which brought wartime prisoners freedom.

Some faked for greed, others did it for loyalty or through religious fervour. Some copied art as a discipline.

The show also demonstrates the frailty of human credibility.

One section covers bizarre magical and scientific fakes such as mermen, unicorns, and a fur-covered trout while another shows the

most prolific early fakers were connected with the church.

The 20th-century section contains counterfeits of Rolex watches, luggage by Louis Vuitton and shirts by Giorgio Armani.

But the exhibition is basically out to give fakes historic and cultural value.

"Fakes are deeply subversive objects which raise difficult questions about... the reality of aesthetic judgement," said curator Mark Jones. "They aren't exactly popular."

Jones found a conspiracy of silence can exist in the world of fakery between buyer and seller, one to escape the penalties and the other to keep his reputation.

"It's a total disaster to spend public money on something that isn't what it should be," said Jones, who also called the exhibition an excuse to get things out of the basement.

He says many fake paintings, such as Dutchman Han van Meegeren's Vermeer forgeries, lose all value when they are unmasked as fakes.

Successful imitations by Michelangelo were said to rival the work of ancient artists but British artist Tom Keating's imitations of Samuel Palmer brought him a visit from the fraud squad.

On show is an exact copy of an original drawing by David Hockney which came up for sale in 1980. During the debate about its authenticity Hockney wrote across it, "This is out my work."

Joos says fakes are normally produced and marketed in a climate of anxiety and provide an excellent guide to what each generation regarded as the hallmarks of authenticity.

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OUR SHOWROOMS ARE OPEN ON FRIDAYS

Life is tedious at INS centre

MIAMI, May 7. (AP): Life is a slow, tedious limbo at a place called Krome, and tempers are short and getting shorter.

Krome, the Krome Service Processing Centre, is where newcomers from Haiti and other countries await word on their future in the United States.

Many people pass through the fenced-in holding centre, but most are Haitian refugees, some with stories to tell of alleged abuse and neglect at the hands of the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

Miami's Haitian community is generally considered peaceful, but on April 29, more than 1,000 Haitians demonstrated outside Krome, tearing at its fences after years of seeing their countrymen locked up while others go free.

"We want freedom and justice for the Haitian refugees and all the refugees detained," said the Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, a Haitian community leader. "We must break down the walls of Krome, which reminds us of Hitlerism."

On average, two-thirds of the centre's 400 or so residents are Haitians. They are picked up at the airport with fake passports and visas or plucked from rickety boats by the coast guard while trying to slip into the United States.

Arrivals at Krome, a former missile base on the steamy edge of the Everglades 25 miles (40 kms) west of Miami, are dressed in orange uniforms and given medical exams. And then they wait.

"The most horrible part of this place is time," said Nuhu Anunu, 35, a TV production specialist from Nigeria.

The average stay at Krome is 18 months, sometimes more than two years. Detainees wait to learn whether they will be deported or released.

"The one thing people kind of lose sight of is that we don't go out and try to shanghai these people," Krome administrator Constance Weiss said. "They're here because they attempted to break the law."

Boredom may be a consistent complaint, but it is not the most serious.

Men and women have complained of beatings and restricted access to telephones and bathrooms. Haitian detainees say Latinos get preferential treatment.

Detainees say they often aren't given enough time to eat their meals and have charged that an Aspirin substitute is given for any complaint.

"On many occasions we are physically abused," one detainee said. "Since we are scared and don't speak English, we keep quiet."

The allegations angered many in the Haitian community, sparking the April 29 demonstration that ended with no arrests and the retreat of the protesters. The allegations have stirred up INS officials, two of whom visited Krome on April 24. Shortly afterward the agency announced the additions of two more immigration judges and 27 guards to improve conditions and speed up the wait.

On May 1, the INS began an already-planned test programme under which about 200 detainees will be released in Miami, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. They must meet certain conditions, including having what appears to be a good case for asylum and a source of income or support, posting a bond of \$500 to \$2,500, and agreeing in writing to surrender for deportation if ordered.

Engine trouble prior to crash

GUATEMALA CITY, May 7. (AP): Engine trouble apparently preceded the crash of an Aerial Tianshi cargo plane, which killed all three crew members and at least 19 people on the ground, the company said yesterday.

The Miami-bound DC-6 crashed shortly after takeoff Saturday from the international airport, plowing into a neighbourhood and setting homes ablaze. Twenty people were injured and 16 houses damaged.

Bush to decide on MFN status for China

WASHINGTON, May 7. (Reuters): US President George Bush is expected to decide whether to extend "most favoured nation" trading status for the government that carried out the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Bush must decide by June 3 whether to ask Congress to revoke MFN for China, a move officials say will weaken the US position in bilateral trade worth around \$18 billion a year. Under MFN, nations can export to the United States at preferential tariff rates. Revoking it could mean tariffs doubling.

Officials say Bush has so far given no indication of which

way he is leaning. Last week, the President said he was disappointed at Beijing's record on improving human rights.

"Overall, I'm disappointed. And yet, preserving a relationship with the People's Republic of China in the broad global context is important. So I have no apologies. I have no feeling that I took the wrong path," Bush said.

Some analysts interpreted the statement as a cue that Bush intended to deftly congressional and public opinion by retaining MFN, in which case he can expect a tough, politically damaging battle in the run-up to congressional elections this fall.

His remarks were so mild it's hard to imagine he does not intend retaining MFN but he's probably holding back on a decision to see what happens at the beginning of June in China," said Paul Kriesberg, an analyst with the Carnegie endowment for international peace.

Ironically, Bush's decision will fall on the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre when Chinese troops crushed a pro-democracy movement, killing hundreds, perhaps thousands, of unarmed civilians.

Bush's response was to send a high-level secret delegation led by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft to Beijing a month after the massacre.

He despatched Scowcroft to China a second time last December as part of his policy of maintaining ties with the government and coaxing it to end its crackdown but the sight of Scowcroft exchanging toasts with Chinese leaders set off a public outcry.

A State Department official said there had been little visible pay-off from the visits.

"It was the President's hope that the Chinese would take enough steps to help rebuild a base of support in the United States for a strong relationship. But nothing has happened since mid-January," he said.

Since then, US-Chinese relations have stagnated. But the MFN decision threatens to upset the equilibrium.



Major cocaine haul

THE Colombian Army struck its biggest blow ever against drug traffickers in three days of jungle raids, seizing 26,400 pounds (12 metric tonnes) of cocaine, the army said.

Security forces have seized 110,000 pounds (50,000 kilograms) in the past 16 months.

Details of last week's raids began to emerge Saturday night when an army general said the network of laboratories and clandestine runways probably belonged to the Medellin cartel.

In other developments, a truck bomb exploded on the outskirts of the western city of Cali and another was destroyed in the northwestern city of Medellin, the national police force said.

The series of raids on cocaine processing laboratories started last Thursday in the southeastern state of Meta, a sparsely populated jungle area cut off by rivers. Two people were killed and 15 arrested in the raids, a spokesman said.

The confiscation of 110 metric tonnes of cocaine was the biggest seizure in a series of raids since police found 22,000 pounds (10 metric tonnes) of cocaine in a small area of southern Colombia six years ago.

Army troops seized 17 border outposts and helicopter gunships were deployed in the Meta operation last week, the military said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Drug barons try to buy Stingers

Plot to kill Barco

WASHINGTON, May 7. (Reuters): Associates of Colombian drug baron Pablo Escobar have been trying to buy Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and machine guns in a plot to assassinate President Virgilio Barco, a US television network reported on Sunday.

One man has been arrested in Miami and charged with plotting to buy weapons illegally, according to unnamed sources quoted by ABC news.

An FBI spokesman in Miami said officials would hold a news conference on the subject today but he would neither confirm nor deny the arrest.

ABC said representatives of Colombia's

Medellin cartel had been travelling in Florida in recent weeks offering up to \$6 million for 100 Stinger missiles and 1,000 machine guns.

The weapons, according to the report, would be used to shoot down helicopters and planes carrying Barco and members of his cabinet.

Last summer Barco ordered a crackdown on drug traffickers, and ABC's sources said the Colombian arms buyers believed that by killing him and other government officials, the cartel leaders could destabilise the country and gain increased control.

Three presidential candidates, including the front-runner, already have been murdered in Colombia. One was assassinated on a domestic airline flight.

Prince Charles, Diana arrive in Budapest

Four-day visit

BUDAPEST, May 7. (UPI): Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana arrived in Budapest for a historic visit today after engineers repaired a electrical fault that prompted an emergency landing of the royal plane in London.

The four-day visit, the first by the House of Windsor to a Warsaw Pact country, was viewed as a gesture of goodwill following Hungary's return last month to multi-party, parliamentary democracy.

The trip got off to a shaky start when the BAE 146 aircraft took off from Heathrow airport with Princess Diana and her entourage of 20 people aboard. They were scheduled to fly to Italy to pick up Prince Charles before heading on to Budapest.

The pilot immediately diverted the flight to Gatwick, where emergency services were placed on full alert during the safe landing. The princess stayed aboard the aircraft while the problem was fixed.

When the royal couple arrived, 45 minutes late, at Budapest airport, the Prince and Princess of Wales were greeted by acting President Arpad Goncz and a host of dignitaries.

Afterward, the couple placed a wreath at the tomb of Hungary's unknown soldier in Hero's Square and met briefly with Prime Minister-designate Jozsef Antall as well as outgoing Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth.

They were to stay in the government's "quietly elegant guest house" in the wooded Buda Hills, along with an entourage that includes secretaries, a doctor, hair dressers, butlers and chambermaids.

The royal couple are the highest-ranking foreign officials to visit Hungary since the last month's parliamentary elections, the first multi-party polls in Hungary in more than 40 years.

Antigua probes weapons shipment

OCCEJ, OFFICIALS FROM THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF Antigua were arriving today to investigate a weapons shipment that ended in the hands of Colombian drug dealers, the Foreign Ministry said.

A spokesman said Israel sold the government of the first state of Antigua and Barbuda (Gallif) rifle and Uzi sub-machine guns in 1989 but Antigua officials denied ordering or receiving any weapons.

The 500 weapons and ammunition, worth some \$200,000, were recovered by Colombian government officials after Colombian drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha was killed by police in December 1989.

"We acted upon the order of the Antigua government and upon a letter of accreditation," the spokesman said. He displayed photographs of communications between the government of Antigua and Israel ordering the weapons and undertaking not to sell or transfer them to others.

A senior army officer in the reserve, Yair Kleit, is under investigation in Israel on suspicion of training Colombian drug gangs.

An Israeli newspaper quoted Khat as saying he was involved in the weapons deal, but Foreign Ministry officials denied he had any role.

The documents showed Israel made the sale through an unknown man named Maurice Sarfati who presented himself as an Antigua government agent.

Officials, who said they knew nothing about Sarfati, said further exchanges with the Antigua government confirmed his identity.

President George Bush has ordered Antigua to "cease and desist" from its political reforms in Eastern Europe and change the island's one-party communist system.

Cuba another 'Vietnam or worse' for US: Castro

HAVANA, May 7. (Reuters): Cuba's armed forces, battle-tested in Africa, flexed their military muscle yesterday in nationwide manoeuvres, and President Fidel Castro said Cuba would be another "Vietnam or worse" for the United States if it tried to attack. The mobilisation of forces on the communist-ruled island has gathered momentum since Washington, when the government launched the "Cuban Shield" exercise to counter what it said was the threat posed by three major US military manoeuvres being held simultaneously in the Caribbean.

"The Yankee manoeuvre is an opportunity for us to hold our own exercise," Castro said in a visit to a military command post in Havana.

The Cuban mobilisation of regular military forces, reservists and militia appeared to be one of the highest since the 1962 missile crisis when Washington protested over Soviet missile bases on the island, Havana-based diplomats said.

Castro told reporters at the Havana command post: "We are preparing ourselves so that what happened to the Yankees in Vietnam—or worse—can happen here."

Washington said on Friday that the US Navy's "Ocean Venture" and "Operation Sea Spirit" were routine and "not aimed against Cuba."

Describing the Cuban exercise, Washington said it was "a better demonstration of the threat 100 times than to be caught by surprise by a US attack."

President George Bush has ordered Antigua to "cease and desist" from its political reforms in Eastern Europe and change the island's one-party communist system.



A Cuban Air Force MIG-21 fighter-bomber aircraft makes a low pass over Havana's Jose Marti International Airport on Sunday, during a nation-wide defence exercise. The manoeuvre called Cuban Shield, were launched by Cuba to counter what it says is the threat of an attack by the US. (Reuters)

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Roh Tae-woo

Korean students storm Roh HQ

SEOUL, May 7. (AP): President Roh Tae-woo asked South Koreans today to help prevent the nation from slipping into "chaos" but radical students stormed his party's headquarters, firebombed a provincial party office and clashed with police in six cities.

The Radical National Council of Student Representatives and the People's Alliance, an umbrella alliance of 17 dissident groups, announced new nation-wide protests aimed at forcing the governing Democratic Liberal Party to disband. The groups urged citizens to join them.

Security was being stepped up around government office buildings to guard against surprise attacks in connection with a governing party convention to be held Wednesday, according to the national police headquarters.

As Roh, was speaking on nationwide television from the presidential palace, 21 radical students seized his party's headquarters and fought off riot police for 10 minutes with firebombs and metal pipes, police and witnesses said.

The radicals barricaded themselves inside a third-floor office, broke the office windows and threw firebombs at police while shouting anti-government slogans, witnesses said.

Korean news reports said the group scattered leaders demanding the ouster of US Ambassador Donald P. Gregg.

The current governing party was formed by a merger, announced in January, of Roh's party and two conservative opposition parties, and radicals claim Gregg devised the merger to serve conservative US business interests.

The windshields of three cars in an outdoor parking lot were shattered by firebombs and some furniture in the governing party offices was smashed, police said. Five students were injured and all 21 were arrested, police and news reports said.

Radical students also fought police outside university campuses in Kwangju, Muju, Pungcheon, Yongin and two small towns outside Seoul, according to Yonhap, the national news agency. About 2,500 students took part, it said. There were no reports of arrests or injuries.

Ten radical students hurled firebombs and smashed windows at the Wonju City chapter of the governing party and fled before police arrived, Yonhap said.

Radical students are a small but vocal minority and many Koreans do not approve of their tactics.

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Youth slashes judge's face

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, May 7. (Reuters): A 16-year-old youth sprinted across a New Zealand courtroom and slashed the judge in the face with a machete today, police said.

Judge Augusta Wallace, 60, was seriously wounded but her life was not in danger, Chief Superintendent Jim Morgan said.

The youth was appearing before a juvenile court in the city of Auckland for sentence on charges of reckless and drunken driving and assaulting a policeman.

"The family, sitting at one end of the courtroom, and the judge were having their discussions about how best to deal with him when he suddenly ran... around the back of the judge's desk and attacked her with a machete," Morgan said.

هنا من الأصل

Treatment to pro-democracy activists differs in Chinese jails

HONG KONG, May 7, (Reuters): Violence against detained pro-democracy activists has abated since an initial outburst of rage by China's hardline leaders, according to a wanted activist who recently fled the country.

Chinese legal processes grind slowly, and thousands of those detained last summer for demanding wider freedoms after 40 years of communist rule still crowd jails across the country.

"There are many, many people in prison, although a few have now been released," said the activist. She declined to be named for fear of reprisals against family and friends still in China.

The treatment of prisoners detained since

the brutal suppression of peaceful demonstrators in Beijing last June differs vastly according to their category — student, worker or intellectual, she said.

With their interrogation complete and a signed confession and self-criticism in the hands of the authorities, more are being released, bringing out details of their internment.

Hundreds of students and workers arrested as pro-democracy activists have been crammed — without charges or trial — into the fortress-like Qinzheng prison in the northern suburbs of the capital. Others are held in the Beijing number 1 prison and municipal detention centres.

Those listed as intellectuals, attacked as purveyors of Western political ideas, or "black hands" — behind-the-scenes organisers of the student movement — are held separately.

Many live in the Chaohu guest house, an installation northeast of Beijing belonging to the Ministry of Power and appropriated by the Ministry of State Security, China's dreaded security apparatus, the escapee said.

In Qinzheng, students and workers, packed 20 or 30 to a cell, sleep on a raised platform. In Chaohu, each prisoner shares a room — with an ensuite bathroom — with only a police minder.

They receive one pack of cigarettes each

day and two apples, or half a watermelon in the hot summer months. Twice-daily meals consist of two dishes of fried meat and vegetables, and a soup.

Copies of the Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, are delivered each day. One police officer apologised to his charge for the lack of a television, a former inmate told the activist who fled China.

A friend who saw leading dissident and literary critic Liu Xiaobo said the formerly skinny activist had gained weight. Liu led three young intellectuals and a pop singer in a defiant hunger strike in Tiananmen Square in early June and has been viciously vilified as a leading black hand.

Liu now spends his days reading the ancient Chinese philosophers Zhuangzi and Laozi, the friend said.

Journalist Dai Qing was allowed a visit home, with her police handler, to collect clothes. She gathered materials she needed to proceed with the writing that has brought her acclaim as one of China's most accomplished and daring modern authors.

Most are permitted outside for exercise. On festivals they even stroll in public parks with a plainclothes police guard — after giving their word not to try to escape.

For those who fail to qualify as intellectuals, treatment can be devastatingly different.

Playwright Wang Peigong, whose satirical drama on post-cultural revolution youth was banned in 1985 and who has been linked by officials with exiled student leader Wuor Kaixi, was described by friends as thin and in poor health. He is an inmate at Qinzheng prison, friends said.

A young academic from the People's University lives in a Beijing detention centre because he was identified as a worker for his organisation of the Beijing Citizens' Autonomous Union.

In a postcard written recently to the activist, he gave a bare outline of overcrowding, interrogation and jail routine.



Daylight scene, May 7, of the wreckage of an inter-city commuter train (left) and a tourist steam train that collided at Brooklyn north of Sydney on Sunday night. Six people were killed in the accident and more than 100 people injured. (Reuters wirephoto)



Police assist a survivor from the wreckage after an inter-city and steam train collided on Sunday at Brooklyn, near Sydney. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sydney train crash probe

SYDNEY, May 7, (AP): Authorities said today they were investigating the possibility of brake-tampering on a train that was smashed in the rear by another, resulting in at least six deaths and more than 100 injuries.

Rescue teams continued cutting at the wreckage of a steam train and an inter-urban express, fearing more people were trapped. The crash happened near the hamlet of Brooklyn, 25 miles (40 kms) north of Sydney.

Police said that of the 106 people injured, six were in critical condition.

New South Wales Transport Minister Bruce Baird said it was possible an emergency brake on the steam train, which had been trying to pick up speed before it was hit in the rear by the express, had been set. He said the state rail authority was investigating.

"There is evidence the hand-operated brake in the third (passenger) carriage was on," Baird said.

The inter-urban passenger train with an estimated 100 people on board was travelling south to Sydney from the city of Newcastle when it slammed into the rear of the steam train as it struggled up a steep gradient.

The steam train also was travelling south with about 350 people who had attended a jazz festival in the Hunter Valley, 100 miles (160 kms) north of Sydney.

"Clearly there was something wrong as to why it didn't get up the hill," Baird said.

Debris from the two trains was littered for up to 100 yards (metres).

The crash site is surrounded by dense bushland and the only access was via a dirt track. The injured were ferried by helicopter to hospitals in Sydney and nearby areas.

One of the survivors, Richard Stohr, said the steam train appeared to have been having difficulty getting up the hill.

He said the electric train appeared to be trying to pick up speed to tackle the hill out of a tunnel when it slammed into the back of the slow-speed steam train.

"This woman just flew past me. Just sailed past," he said. "I think she was killed."

Australia's worst rail disaster claimed 83 lives when a crowded commuter train left the rails and hit a bridge at Granville, in Sydney's western suburbs, in January 1977.



Thai soldiers dressed up like Vietnamese troops demonstrate guerrilla fighting methods to Thai and US soldiers (background) during an opening ceremony of the joint Thai-US military exercises at Chobun, Thailand, yesterday

Sihanouk won't attend talks

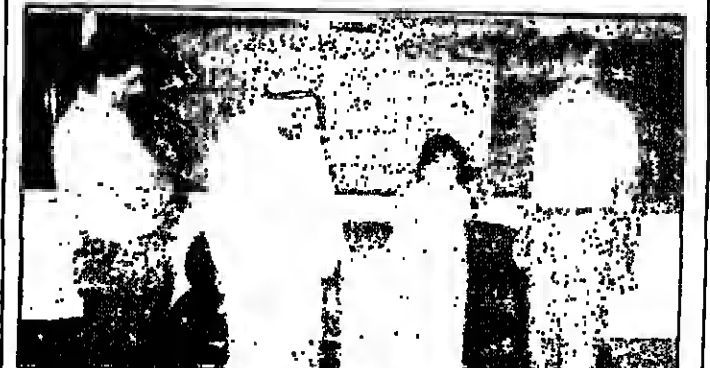
Leave of absence

BEIJING, May 7, (AP): Cambodia's unpredictable exiled leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, announced today that he was taking another leave of absence as president of the resistance government.

Sihanouk said in a statement that he would devote himself to national reconstruction. That meant he would not attend talks next month in Tokyo with Huo Sen, premier of the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia, he said.

"Henceforth, I do not any longer concern myself with political issues or problems of war," said the 67-year-old prince.

Strike gold with Indus Valley's Rice 2nd Draw



The Indus Valley Golden Draw was conducted on 30/4/90 at Malek Bros. Offices: under the supervision of Mr. Mohammad Abdul Aziz Al Faraj, representing the Ministry of Commerce.

Many consumers participated in Indus Valley exceptional offer. Mr. Abdul Hamid Shalhi Abdullah, holder of No. 364903 won a 250 grm pure gold.

One more draw will take place, on the 14th of May '90. Malek Bros. and Hindustan Lever are happy to offer the consumers the opportunity to win pure gold and also to enjoy the unique and delicious taste of Indus Valley Rice.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nazi war crimes case: Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk begins fighting for his life in Israel's supreme court next Monday, still denying he gassed to death hundreds of thousands of Jews in World War Two.

Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 70, denied a lower court ruling he operated the gas chamber and tortured prisoners at Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. On Monday the supreme court agreed to hear his challenge after months of delays.

Demjanjuk's 15-month public trial centred on whether he was a brutal guard nicknamed "Ivan the Terrible" who killed 850,000 Jews at the camp.

The lower court, rejecting his claim to mistaken identity, ordered that he become the first Nazi war criminal hanged in Israel since mass murderer Adolf Eichmann in 1962. (Reuters)

China condemns Voice of America: China on Monday renewed its attack on the Voice of America, accusing the US government of opposing the Communist Party and socialism during political unrest last June.

The People's Daily, in a lengthy commentary, also accused unnamed US publications of spreading counter-revolutionary rumours.

"During the counter-revolutionary rebellion at the end of spring and beginning of summer last year, the Voice of America and American publications disseminated rumours and absurdities that opposed China's Communist Party and socialism and attacked our government's efforts to put down turmoil," the official newspaper said. (Reuters)

Di's plane diverted: A private jet taking Prince Diana to Italy and Hungary diverted to Gatwick airport shortly after takeoff from Heathrow airport on Monday because of an electrical fault. Buckingham Palace and airport officials said.

The four-engine jet of the queen's flight spent an hour and 20 minutes on the ground at Gatwick while the fault was repaired, said Roger Hanson, terminal duty manager for Gatwick airport. It then left for Italy, where Diana was to pick up her husband, Prince Charles, before heading to Budapest.

Their four-day trip is the first official visit by members of Britain's royal family to a Warsaw Pact country. The royal couple will be meeting Hungary's newly elected leaders and talking to businessmen and artists. Hanson said emergency services were put on stand-by, as a routine practice, after the plane reported the fault and requested permission to divert. Gatwick is 30 miles (48 kilometres) from Heathrow so the plane must have been flying only about eight minutes before it was diverted, he said. (AP)

Call for US defence review: The United States could cut its military strength by about a quarter without endangering national security, armed forces Chief General Colin Powell said in an interview published on Monday.

Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Washington Post the Defence Department should conduct a thorough review of weapons systems, personnel levels, training and strategy to prepare for the cuts. He said he was trying to persuade the Pentagon that the Soviet military threat "really is different." (Reuters)

Somalia asks to return: Somalia has asked Ethiopia to return a light aircraft hijacked on Sunday with three Europeans and a Somali on board.

The plane was hijacked by two Somalis, whose identity has not yet been revealed, and forced to land at the Ethiopian frontier town of Dollo.

Ethiopian police seized the plane and freed the hostages, but the fate of the two hijackers has not been disclosed.

A spokesman at the Somali Transport Ministry said the hijackers took over the single-engine Cessna as it was flying from Bardera in southern Somalia towards the capital Mogadishu. (Reuters)

Soviet floods, 2 dead: Floods in the Soviet Urals region have killed at least two people, left two missing, destroyed thousands of homes and forced the evacuation of thousands of residents, Soviet newspapers said on Sunday.

The Khabarovsk Tribune said 23 towns and villages in the Bashkiriya autonomous republic had been virtually submerged and that all 7,000 residents of the town of Sukhankulovo, in a heavily industrial area, had been evacuated.

"They are practically without shelter and did not even have the time to take basic items away with them," the daily said. (Reuters)

Attempt to behead: Police discovered a deep gash in the neck of the Little Mermaid statue on Monday in what looked like an attempt to decapitate the bronze tribute to Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen.

An 18-centimetre-long (7.2 inches) cut from a hacksaw went about one-third of the way toward severing the head of the statue, set on a rock at the entrance to Copenhagen harbour.

The gash was found by a Danish passerby early Monday, and the police homicide division immediately took on the case. (AP)

Greek-US talks resume

ATHENS, May 7, (AP): Greek and US negotiators resumed talks today aimed at renewing a defence agreement between the two countries that expired in Dec 1988.

The negotiations will be held daily at the Foreign Ministry until May 16 and will resume in Washington on May 22.

Governance spokesman Vryou Polydoros said that the negotiating teams were the same as those that had met during previous sessions.

He said that earlier talks had resulted in "90 per cent agreement" and would resume from that point.

Under terms of the expired five-year agreement, the United States must dismantle its four major bases and about 20 smaller installations unless a new accord is reached by Nov 21.

But earlier this year the US announced unilaterally the closure of two bases as part of a world-wide cost-cutting measure.

Conservative Premier Constantine Mitsotakis has said that he looks forward to an agreement that will be "in the mutual interest of both countries."

Romanian crisis

Deadlocked over key issues in polls

BUCHAREST, May 7, (Reuters): Interim President Ion Iliescu and leaders of a continuing demonstration in central Bucharest appear deadlocked over key issues in Romania's first free elections for more than half a century.

Iliescu has proposed meeting the groups leading the two-week protest, which has blocked one of the capital's main arteries. But the talks on Tuesday are unlikely to agree on their main demand — banning former communist officials from public office.

The protesters point to article eight of a proclamation drawn up in February by opposition groups in Timisoara, birthplace of the December revolution which ousted Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The article says former high-ranking communist officials should be banned from political office for at least 10 years. This would affect Iliescu, the

ruling National Salvation Front's presidential candidate in the May 20 elections. He was a senior communist official until he fell out of favour with Ceausescu 15 years ago.

The thousands of demonstrators who pack Bucharest's University Square every night accuse Iliescu of being a neo-communist and say the Front is dominated by former communist activists.

Iliescu has said repeatedly the Timisoara proclamation and Romania's electoral law are not negotiable, leaving the protest leaders wondering what he was willing to discuss.

"We've been trying all day to contact someone from his office to see what exactly he wants to talk to us about," said Aleksandru Nancu, a spokesman for the five major protest groups. "We're preparing a delegation to meet with Iliescu."

CDU leads in Croatian elections

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, May 7, (AP): The centre-right Croatian Democratic Union, which advocates Croatia's independence from Yugoslavia, held the lead in the second round of the republic's first free elections in 50 years, unofficial results showed today.

Partial official results from the legislative elections, held yesterday and today, will be announced later today.

The union won 104 of 131 seats in the 356-seat tri-cameral regional Parliament in the first round of voting April 22-23. The remaining 225 seats were to have been decided in the second round of voting.

The Croatian Communist Party — renamed the Party

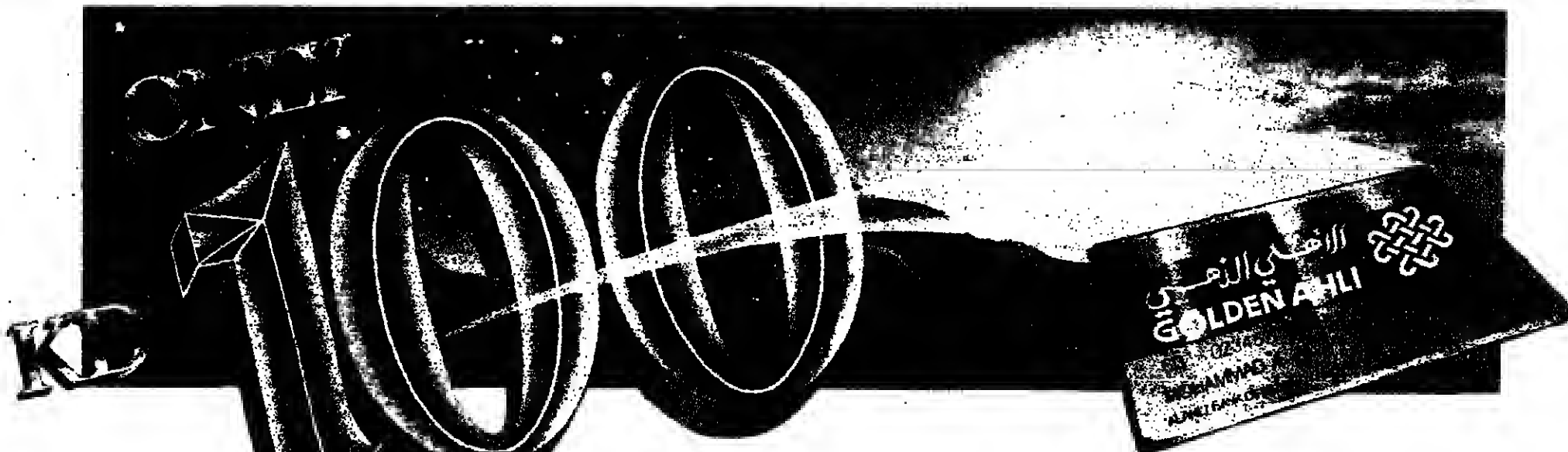
for Democratic Reform — won only 13 seats in the first round, while the centrist Coalition for National Accord, considered a pre-election favourite, won three seats.

Zagreb television and newspaper projections from the second round showed the union's candidates were leading the communist and the coalition by a comfortable margin.

In the first round of voting, parties needed a majority of the vote to win a parliamentary seat, but only a plurality was needed to win a seat in the second round.

News media projections gave no specific figures, but suggested that the CDU is likely to have an overwhelming majority in Croatia's new Parliament.

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Ruling party keeps power

Denktash boosted

NICOSIA, May 7, (Reuters): Turkish-Cypriots underlined their hardline stance on unity talks with Greek-Cypriots by handing the ruling National Unity Party (NUP) an emphatic general elections victory.

The NUP had won 54.5 per cent of Sunday's vote in the breakaway north of the island, 10 percentage points more than their main rivals, with 90 per cent of the votes counted by this afternoon.

The result boosted Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, who won reelection as president two weeks ago in his tough stance on unity talks with Cyprus. "This result has confirmed our people's common sense," said Denktash, who used to be leader of the NUP and has ruled with it since he became president in 1985.

Denktash wants self-determination for Turkish-Cypriots as a distinct community in any unified Cyprus.

The island has been split since Turkish troops occupied the northern third in 1974 after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece. Only Ankara recognises the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state.

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Political integrity under attack

PARIS, May 7. (AP) Francois Mitterrand this week begins his 10th year as president with his popularity plummeting and his political integrity under attack in a new, best-selling biography.

Some political analyst predict Mitterrand's problems will worsen in the coming months. Others suggest the socialist president will bounce back, as he has many times in an up-and-down, 45-year political career.

Mitterrand was first elected May 10, 1981, and won re-election to another seven-year term in 1988.

France's constitution gives broad powers to the president, who appoints the prime minister and controls the executive branch, including defence and foreign policy. The prime minister heads the cabinet and deals with Parliament.

Recent public opinion polls show a dramatic drop in Mitterrand's popularity. A Sofres survey recorded a 12-month decline from 61 to 53 percent in a single month, while a poll by the Journal Du Dimanche newspaper found only 39 per cent of respondents satisfied with Mitterrand's performance.

The next parliamentary elections are two years away and the next presidential vote in 1995, too far-off to be affected by the recent negative polls. Analysis in France don't read any particular significance into the polls beyond a clear trend of disenchantment with Mitterrand.

"Don't ever forget: Francois Mitterrand is an artist of resurrection," says Franz-Olivier Geisbert, 41, author of the new, unflattering biography. "In 1980, he was finished. In 1981, he was elected president of the republic."

Geisbert, a prominent journalist who has worked for both left and right conservative publications, has been following Mitterrand's career for many years.

His second book on Mitterrand, "The President," is filled with revealing anecdotes and interviews with presidential advisers, ministers, opposition leaders, reporters, and Mitterrand himself.

It strips away Mitterrand's image as a lofty, high-principled statesman and depicts him instead as a politician who set "aside principle and ideology" to carve out his place in history.

"Mitterrand has fascinated me for a long time," Geisbert wrote in the introduction. "This man, in fact, is never the man you think he is. He is both better and worse."

"The whole Mitterrand is there, in this mix of electoral cynicism and artistic haze. He does not let himself be burdened by scruples when power is at stake," he wrote.

The book is a behind-the-scenes look at how the 73-year-old president wields power by manipulating political allies and enemies.

It chronicles his intense dislike of his longtime socialist rival, Michel Rocard, whom he relegated to minor cabinet posts until attrition among his staffs forced him to name Rocard as premier after Mitterrand's re-election in 1988.

The book also describes how Mitterrand engineered a leftist coalition to beat Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1981. The manoeuvre was doubly useful to Mitterrand. It led, ultimately, to the decline of the Communist Party, which has discredited and divided conservative political factions ever since.

Mitterrand welcomed media representatives and said the book was a "very good" reflection of his career.

All-German polls call

Kohl gets boost for quick unity

BONN, May 7. (Reuters) Conservative Bonn politicians began considering early all-German elections today after polls in East Germany and a key Moscow concession improved Helmut Kohl's chances to become first chancellor of a reunited Germany.

Kohl has said all-German elections, the crowning act in a unification process already well under way, could not be held until late 1991.

But the chancellor, a witty politician who enjoys campaigning, saw his Christian Democratic (CDU) allies in East Germany emerge as the strongest party in local elections yesterday.

He got another boost for quick unity on Saturday when the Soviet Union announced it no longer insisted that the military status of the new Germany be defined before unification.

"We want to use the full tempo of the unification process and the earliest possible chance for all-German elections," his right-hand man in the CDU, General Secretary Volker Ruehe, said as the East German conservatives' victory became clear.

"The CDU is clearly the strongest political force in all of Germany," he told the newspaper Bild.

"I am not sure about what will happen, but I am sure about this now," another CDU official



Leader of West German Jewish Community Heinz Gheleski (left), West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (centre), and chairman of World Jewish Congress Edgar M. Bronfman (right) watch the opening of the World Jewish Congress in West Berlin on Monday. Since 50 years is the first time that this congress takes place in Germany. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mongolia protesters end sit-ins, hunger strikes



Democracy demonstrators stage a sit-down strike on May 3 in the central square of Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia in support of hunger strikers fasting throughout Mongolia. The protesters are demanding the repeal of laws restricting demonstrations and call for the replacement of the communist controlled parliament before elections in July. (Reuters wirephoto)

Accept govt. compromise, join advisory body

BEIJING, May 7. (AP) Nearly a week of sit-ins and hunger strikes across Mongolia were ending after the last opposition group agreed to a compromise and joined a government advisory body, a source in Ulan Bator said today.

The Mongolian Democratic Association decided late yesterday to join other opposition groups in accepting a government offer of an advisory role in the communist-dominated legislature, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source said 25 to 30 people, mainly intellectuals, who had staged a sit-in since last Wednesday in Ulan Bator's central Sukhbaatar Square had cleared out by midnight.

Sit-ins were also staged in a half-dozen other cities and there were hunger strikes in three, but the source, who spoke by telephone from the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, quoted an MDA spokesman as saying "all protests are expected to end soon."

The sit-in in the capital never gathered more than several hundred supporters and onlookers, the source said.

The low turnout contrasted sharply with the thousands who gathered last winter for rallies called by Mongolia's new opposition groups.

Details of the advisory council's size, function and makeup were not disclosed, but it is to work under the legislature's council of ministers and be able to submit draft legislation, the source said.

Mongolian President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat proposed the consultative council as an alternative to opposition demands that the 370-member legislature resign and a multiparty legislature be set up until elections are held this summer.

The opposition had claimed the election law favoured the communists and said fair elections could be held only if a multiparty, interim legislature was in place.

More than 93 per cent of the current legislators are members of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party — the Communist Party.

Among issues the consultative council plans to take up are changing the law on demonstrations and recognizing

the right of all legally registered political parties to work in the central election council, the source said.

He said the advisory body was expected to meet almost immediately to prepare for the opening of the legislature, or great people's khural, on Thursday.

Ochirbat, meanwhile, flew home from Beijing today, breaking off an historic weeklong visit to China, according to the Mongolian embassy in Beijing. He had come to normalise long-tense bilateral relations.

■ The Soviet Union will withdraw 26,800 troops from Mongolia by the end of this year, the Soviet military commander in Ulan Bator said.

The Soviets in March promised to pull out all of their estimated 60,000 troops by 1992, with planned withdrawal of main combat units in 1991 and equipment support units the following year.

Li Gen, Mayorov was quoted by the official Chinese news agency, Xinhua, as saying during a news conference in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator that the troop withdrawal would begin May 15 and end in August.

Results cause policy review

CDU loses support

EAST BERLIN, May 7. (AP) East Germany's top political party lost support in the nation's first free local elections, and the country's new prime minister said today he wants to find out why.

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said: "A review of party policy will be conducted" to determine why his Christian Democrats had lost support since East Germany's national elections, reported Radio Free Berlin, based in West Berlin.

The Christian Democrats, leaders of East Germany's governing coalition, finished yesterday's elections with about 7 per cent less support than in national elections March 18.

In yesterday's balloting, East Germans chose a city councilman from West Germany as mayor of Leipzig, East Germany's second-largest city, early projections indicated.

Local issues dominated individual races, so it was unclear if any dissatisfaction with the rush to unite the two Germanys was a factor in the results.

Despite suffering setbacks, De Maiziere's Conservative Party captured the most local government seats, followed by the left-leaning Social Democrats, according to West German television projections.

The reformed Communist Party, now called the Party of Democratic Socialism, finished a distant third, the projections found.

Official final results were not expected to be announced until later today, but no major changes are expected.

Hinrich Lehmann-Grube, a city council member from the West German city of Hanover, won his campaign for mayor of Leipzig, television projections indicated.

Lehmann-Grube holds dual East and West German citizenship.

Since he became an East German citizen only last month, he was not allowed to vote in the election. However, anyone who is an East German citizen over the age of 18 can be elected to office.

It was not immediately clear whether Lehmann-Grube would resign from the Hanover city council.

The parties' performances generally reflected the results of

Soviets signal quick unity

WASHINGTON, May 7. (Reuters) The Soviet Union has signalled a willingness to agree to quick German unification if the other World War II allies postpone a decision on what military ties a united Germany would have, the Washington Post reported today.

Quoting unnamed West German and American sources, the newspaper said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze proposed delaying for several years discussion of a unified Germany's membership in Nato at last Saturday's opening session of the "two-plus-four" talks in Bonn.

The proposal would be subject to win support from the United States, Britain and France which argue that a new Germany should be firmly tied to Nato, although it might appeal to West Germany because it would speed reunification.

The Soviet Union has opposed a future Germany belonging solely to Nato and not to the Warsaw Pact on the grounds that it would threaten their security.

Shevardnadze's proposal would allow the two Germanys to become one nation as early as this year, but the wartime allies — Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union — would retain their post-war rights over Germany as a transitional measure, according to the Post.

The question of future military alliances would then be addressed during this transitional period, which could last several years, the report said.

"The settlements of the internal and external aspects of German unification do not necessarily have to occur simultaneously," the Post's sources quoted Shevardnadze as telling the other ministers.

Yesterday, East Germans voting in local polls again gave a majority to centrist parties, especially the ruling Christian Democrats, which want a clear break with the communist past.

There are no more hurdles along the way to the reunification of all Germans to self-determination, Kohl said in a triumphant statement yesterday.

A leading spokesman for World Jewry bluntly warned that the Germans' headlong race to unite must avoid the aggressive nationalism which has caused war and terrorism.

■ The western part of a united Germany will stay firmly in Nato regardless of the compromise found for its future military status, Bonn's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said today.

"There is no dispute that West Germany — and, once we are united, the part of Germany that is in Nato — will stay in Nato," said Genscher in a radio interview.

■ Israel is closely watching the steps to unite East and West Germany and some officials expressed their concern yesterday over rising anti-Semitism there.

"There is, of course, a suspicion — certainly theoretical and based on historical background — by Jews who remember that twice in this century Germany caused war and terrorism," said Reuben Merchan, director-general of the Foreign Ministry.

■ Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, following talks with US Secretary of State James Baker, said he was "satisfied" by Poland's inclusion in July's round of German unification talks that will deal with the Polish-German border set following World War II.

■ Meeting on German soil for the first time in its 54-year existence, the World Jewish Congress convened with a call for new generations of Germans to be kept aware of the country's Nazi past.

Congress President Edgar M. Bronfman said yesterday that a new united Germany must "forever teach" about the Nazi holocaust of six million Jews, "the lowest point ever reached in man's inhumanity to man."

Kremlin asks Latvia to explain its action

Declaration of independence

RIGA, USSR, May 7. (AP) Latvia's president said today the Kremlin had asked him to explain his republic's declaration of independence, and indicated Moscow's reaction might not be as harsh as reported earlier.

The mood in the Latvian parliament, which voted Friday for independence, was calm as President Anatoli Gorbunov announced he had received a telephone call from a Soviet lawmaker. The lawmaker, whom Gorbunov didn't identify, relayed a request from President

The official Soviet news agency Tass quoted Rubins as saying in a statement on television that Gorbachev told him in a telephone call that the vote violated the Soviet constitution. Gorbachev said he might impose political, economic and administrative sanctions if the Baltic republic didn't reverse its course, Rubins said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy I. Gerasimov, at a Monday briefing, declined to answer questions about Latvia. "There is no official response yet," he said.

He said Rubins' statement was "not a direct response" to the republic's declaration of independence.

Latvia has sought to avoid the sanctions that Gorbachev slapped on another Baltic republic, Lithuania, last month for declaring independence outright.

Latvian lawmakers were drafting a response to Gorbachev's request, and this material will be sent to Moscow at any moment," Gorbunov said.

Lithuania declared independence on March 11, and Gorbachev responded by sending troops to occupy some Communist Party buildings and imposing economic sanctions.

The third Baltic republic, Estonia, last month declared its intention to secede, but set off date and left the door open for negotiations with the Kremlin.

Gorbachev's request for documents concerning the Latvian declaration indicated he had not decided whether Latvia's action was closer to that taken by Lithuania or Estonia.

As the Latvian parliament opened yesterday, about 50 Soviet soldiers approached the building and unfurled a red banner reading: "Comrades, have no doubt we will defend the interests of the USSR with honour." Thousands of Soviet troops are stationed in Latvia.

Several Latvians, incensed by the ominous tone of the slogan, shouted, "Shame," in Russian at the soldiers. The argument remained peaceful.

Even before Gorbunov's announcement, Latvian deputies were denouncing Rubins' report that Gorbachev had rejected the Latvian declaration and threatened sanctions.

Legislator Janis Kruminis said Latvians who had spoken with Valentin Falin, head of the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee in Moscow, thought that Gorbachev's reaction might not be as harsh as reported by Rubins.

"To threaten that there could be a blockade without having fully understood what happened here would be irresponsible," said Ivars Kerbers, a Latvian lawmaker who has been involved in talks with Moscow.

Lithuanian lawmaker Nikolai Medvedev, visiting Riga, said it appeared that, although the three Baltic republics have taken different approaches to their independence drives, "the answer is the same."

He said separatists in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were forming political and economic ties with such Russian cities as Moscow and Leningrad, where radicals have come to power.

■ The public prosecution Monday acquitted President Mikhail Gorbachev from an alleged involvement in a bribe scandal in the Transcaucasia region.

The accusations by two former Soviet prosecution investigations that Gorbachev had received bribes were dismissed by a prosecution statement as "untruthful."



Call for reunification

A weekend invasion of Soviet Moldavia by hundreds of thousands of Romanians fueled hopes Monday for reunification of the two regions, residents of both countries said.

"Anyone who feels Romanian wants Bessarabia back," said Romanian Popular Front spokesman Nicolaeu Vinicu, using the Romanian name for the region now known as Soviet Moldavia. "It's just a matter of time."

Hundreds of thousands of Romanians were allowed to cross the river Prut into the Soviet Union without passports Sunday for the first time in 50 years in what many saw as a step toward reuniting Moldavia and Romania.

Massive crowds swarmed across the river at several bridges linking the two countries, and border guards turned a blind eye to teenagers taking advantage of the

six-hour frontier opening by swimming to the Soviet Union. Moldavia, where more than half of the 4 million population are ethnic Romanians, was part of Romania between 1918 and 1940; when it was seized by the Soviets under dictator Josef Stalin.

Since the revolution that toppled Romanian communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu, the mostly Romanian leaders of Moldavia have declared Romanian the official language and even moved the clocks back an hour to be synchronised with Bucharest.

At the border crossing in Ungureni, a hamlet split in two by the Prut, about 40,000 people jammed a small iron bridge over the river, creating a 6-mile-long traffic jam on the Romanian side. (Reuters wirephoto)

Victim of Soviet blockade

First Lithuanian martyr

KAUNAS, Soviet Union, May 7. (Reuters) The family of Stanislovas Zhemaitis is still trying to understand why a happy father and simple working man decided to become the first martyr to the 1990 Lithuanian revolution.

Zhemaitis, 32, died on April 26 when he set fire to himself outside the Bolshoi theatre in Moscow, in a protest against the Kremlin's hard line on breakaway Lithuania.

His grave in a sleepy suburb of Kaunas is heaped with flowers sent by people who never knew him, including the Lithuanian leaders who so angered Moscow by declaring independence on March 11.

But his widow Stanislova, 46, says he was an unlikely hero.

"He was not interested in politics any more than the average person," she said in an interview in the crowded two-room flat she shared with Zhemaitis, their two daughters, a son-in-law and a grandson.

"He was a jolly man, who doted on his children," said daughter Valia, 23, holding his only grandchild on her lap. "Lately he talked a lot about independence. But everyone is talking about it."

The turning point for Zhemaitis appeared to be when he lost his job in mid-April as a result of the Kremlin's economic blockade against the rebelling republic.

Moscow launched it on April 15 by shutting off oil supplies to Lithuania and petrol rationing began almost at once. Zhemaitis, an car mechanic, was one of the first to be thrown out of work.

"The night before he left for Moscow, he was very upset," his wife said. "He said this is the end. There is no petrol, no work, and soon there will be no money."

The next day she returned home from her job as a Kaunas shop assistant to find his wedding ring lying on a suicide note.

"Dear Stasle," it said, calling her by her nickname. "I cannot live any more. The occupiers have turned off the taps, sent in paratroopers, and people are left without work. I have gone to Moscow to set myself on fire."

On the streets of Kaunas, a city of 300,000 which was the capital of Lithuania during its years of independence between 1918 and 1940, people say Zhemaitis is a hero.

He was buried next to a monument to previous martyrs for Lithuanian freedom, his grave identified by a simple wooden marker.

"Son of Lithuania your sacrifice for ... independence will be written forever on the hearts of the Lithuanian people," declared the inscription on a large wreath sent by the republic's Parliament.

Zhemaitis is not the first man to be considered a martyr by the Lithuanian people. Lithuanians say one in six residents of the republic were killed, jailed or exiled after it was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940.

But he is the first victim of the 1990 rebellion, which Lithuanian leaders wished to be bloodless. Having declared independence from Moscow, they have urged people to carry on with their normal lives and not give the Kremlin any excuse for a violent crackdown.

In Zhemaitis's case, the tension felt by many people here reached a tragic personal climax but his family deny that he simply became unhinged and lacked a political motive.

"The fact that he went to Moscow is proof that he was a patriot," said son-in-law Saulius, 25. "Otherwise he could have killed himself here."

"I understand that he wanted to be a Lithuanian hero," his widow said. "But as his wife I am in pain because he is gone. Of course I have become more of a patriot, because I sense his determination."

Lithuanian quest for independence should not upset perestroika, says Pope

MEXICO CITY, May 7. (Reuters) Pope John Paul II yesterday said Lithuania's quest for independence should not upset perestroika reforms.

The pontiff's comments on Lithuania, which is predominantly Roman Catholic, were his clearest and most comprehensive on the issue since the Baltic Republic unilaterally declared its independence last

March, prompting Moscow to impose economic sanctions.

"Both aspects (of the problem) must be taken into consideration," the pontiff said in response to a question on board the plane taking him to Mexico for the start of an eight-day visit.

"On the one hand there is a nation's hope, which is justified by its past independence. On the other hand there is the overall question of

that part of the world, that is, of Soviet perestroika (reform). The two things must fit together well in any programme," he said.

The Pope said the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as well as his native Poland, had been "profoundly violated" by the secret Ribbentrop-Molotov pact between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in 1939.

He said independence in the Bal-

tics, which the Soviet Union annexed during World War II, had become "a special situation."

The Pope, who in the past limited his comments about Lithuania to calling for dialogue to achieve the country's aspirations, appeared to be giving a hand to Gorbachev and urging Lithuanians to be patient.

■ Pope John Paul II says he will not visit Cuba this year, despite a Vatican announcement last month that the pontiff might travel to the continu-

ist country in December.

"It seems that this project will not be mature for the end of the year," John Paul told reporters yesterday on the papal flight from Rome to Mexico City.

■ Pope John Paul urged Mexicans to fight corruption, help the poor and protect human rights.

He was speaking in Mexico's boldest shrine yesterday, the first day of a grueling 10-city tour.

Turkey, Iraq fail to agree on issues

BAGHDAD, May 7, (AP): Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut flew home today after talks with Iraqi leaders on economic co-operation and border security against Kurdish insurgents were stymied by a dispute over the Euphrates river.

Iraqi officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two sides agreed on a new trade and technical co-operation protocol, but failed to agree on major issues.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issaro Abdul Rahim Al-Chalabi and Turkey's Minister of State, Isin Celbi, signed the protocol at a ceremony attended by Akbulut and Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Taha Yassin Ramadan. The details were not immediately disclosed.

Akbulut was accompanied by a delegation of about 250 people, including 150 businessmen. He was seen off at Baghdad airport at the end of his three-day visit by Ramadan and other senior Iraqi officials.

The Turkish leader had hoped to sign several economic agreements and negotiate a new border security agreement giving Turkish forces the right of hot pursuit into northern Iraq in their war against Kurdish guerrillas.

A 1984 security pact expired last year. But Kurdish separatists in southeastern Turkey have recently stepped up their guerrilla campaign against the Ankara government.

Kurdish insurgents on the Iraqi side of the border have been fighting the Baghdad government for decades in a campaign for an independent homeland in the mountainous north of the country.

Despite the failure to negotiate new agreements, Iraqi officials said the talks were "fruitful and constructive" and said the two sides will conduct further discussions later.

The main stumbling block was the Euphrates dispute. Baghdad demanded a guaranteed share of water from the river which originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey and refused to sign a security agreement unless the Turks met Iraqi terms on the Euphrates water.

The 1,460-mile (2,300-km) river flows through Syria and then Iraq before joining the Tigris river, which also originates in Turkey, to form the Shatt Al-Arab waterway that runs into the Gulf.

Relations between Iraq and Turkey, its northern neighbour, soured in January when the Turks cut off much of the Euphrates flow for a month to fill the reservoir of the huge Ataturk dam in southeastern Anatolia province.

Sources close to the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported yesterday that disagreements soon emerged on the Euphrates issue and border security.

Hardline on hostage deal

Free our men, Israelis: Lahad

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 7, (AP): Antoine Lahad, leader of an Israeli-backed militia in south Lebanon, said today he would not release any of his about 300 Shiite prisoners for Western hostages unless captive militiamen and Israeli soldiers were also freed.

In an interview with the Voice of South Lebanon radio station, Lahad said "no prisoners will be released unless Israeli and South Lebanon Army hostages are released first."

Lahad's remarks, his first since the US hostage were freed, came at a time of growing US pressure on Israel to free Arab detainees to help win the freedom of 16 Western hostages, including six Americans still held in Lebanon.

However, Lahad's remarks appeared to reflect a hardline by Israel towards any deal that excluded their own captives.

"It is our stated policy that we are ready to contemplate an exchange for the Israeli prisoners who are held by those organisations," said Avi Pazner, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

But he denied there was any direct US pressure on Israel to make prisoner releases exclusively on behalf of Western hostages.

Israel has consistently said it is not opposed to a swap in principle, but that such an exchange should include three Israeli servicemen captured in Lebanon in 1986 and believed held by radical Shiites linked to the pro-Iranian Hezbollah militia.

Sources close to Lahad's 2,500-member South Lebanon Army, which gets training and supplies from Israel, said eight of his fighters are held by Shiite groups.

Lahad holds more than 300 Arab detainees, most of them Shiites, at the Al Khiam lockup three kilometres (two miles) south of Lahad's headquarters in Marjayoun.

The Shiite captors released two American professors in the past two weeks. Robert Pollitt on April 22 and Frank Reed on April 30. An Iranian newspaper suggested good will gestures on the part of Israel would encourage more releases.

Two senior US senators yesterday called for the release of the remaining Western hostages. Senate minority leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., urged foreign leaders to press for the hostages' release, and Democratic Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York urged Israel to release the Muslim prisoners it holds.

"It is in [Israel's] interest to do and if they're part of the world nations seeking legality and decency, they should now act to bring it about in Lebanon," Moynihan said.

Israel's most prominent prisoner is Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid, a Shiite Muslim cleric belonging to Hezbollah. Obeid and two assistants were captured by Israel on July 28.

Israel also holds 9,986 Palestinians detained during the 29-month uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ariel Merari, an Israeli expert of Lebanese and Palestinian fighters, said he saw a disturbing shift in US attitudes.

"They are trying to present us and the Shiites as in fact the same thing. The United States, as American policy is trying to present it, is no more than a poor victim of two wild sides in the Middle East," he said.

Lahad told Reuters he had suspended traditional releases of prisoners to mark holidays to end speculation that this was a payoff for the freeing of Western hostages.

"As long as this is presented as part of a deal, and our [captured] people and the people of the IDF [Israeli Defence Forces] are not included in the deal, we have to stop such releases," he said.

Asked whether there was a chance of a deal to swap hostages for SLA prisoners, who include Palestinians, communists and Hezbollah members, Lahad said: "If it is only for the Western hostages, then no."

Lahad said four SLA men were missing after armed men seized them more than 18 months ago.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater today said US policy of not bargaining for hostages would continue, despite former hostage Reed's appeal for negotiations and his account of beatings in captivity.

'Someone has to say it': US senator remarks

Israel must free hostages

WASHINGTON, May 7 (Reuters): Declaring "someone has to say it," US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan called yesterday for Israel to release its Arab hostages.

"Hostages held anywhere are an offence against humanity. And someone has to say it," Moynihan, a Democrat, said at a news conference with Frank Reed, Robert Pollitt and Ferry Levin, former hostages who had been held in Lebanon by pro-Islamic groups.

"This applies to the state of Israel. We hope they hear us," said Moynihan, a member of the Senate foreign relations committee.

His blunt remarks received a standing ovation from the families and friends of some of the American, British and Irish hostages who travelled to Washington for the news conference.

Another Senate critic of Israel's capture of Muslim Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, Republican leader Robert Dole, called on all governments to do anything in their power to win the release of all hostages held in the Middle East.

"A hostage is a hostage and should not be held against his or her will," Dole said at the news conference.

Iranian publications which reflect the views of Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, have said US President George Bush should pressure Israel to release its 400 Arab prisoners if Iran is to help work out the release of six Americans still held by pro-Islamic groups in Lebanon.

Muslim fundamentalists have also said the release of Obeid, the Shiite cleric kidnapped by Israel nine months ago, could result in the release of more Western hostages.

There are 155 Westerners held hostage by pro-Islamic groups, including six Americans. They are thought to be held in Lebanon.

Iranian ambassador to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi said yesterday on the US television programme "This Week with David Brinkley" the easiest way for the United States to show its thanks to Iran for securing the release of Pollitt and Reed would be to encourage Israel to release these hostages.

Bush last week pledged to help Iran learn the fate of three missing Iranians as a show of good will but said again he will not do anything that could be interpreted as bargaining for the Western hostages.

Israel holds hundreds of mainly Shiite prisoners in two jails inside its "security zone" in south Lebanon. They are charged with attacking Israeli troops or pro-Israeli militia, or helping Muslims.



Former hostage Frank Reed addresses a news conference on Sunday in front of photos of other hostages who have been held in Lebanon. Reed revealed for the first time that he had suffered severe beatings after he twice tried to escape from his captors. (Reuters wirephoto)

Negotiate, says Reed

'Even if you have to get in bed with devil'

WASHINGTON, May 7, (Reuters): Former hostage Frank Reed revealed yesterday that he suffered severe beatings all over his body after he tried to escape his Lebanese captors.

Reed said at a news conference he had his feet, nose, jaw and ribs broken and that his kidneys bled when he was punished for twice trying to gain freedom.

"The first time I was caught I spent about four days of hell. Thank God it didn't kill me," said the 57-year-old Reed, who was freed in Lebanon on April 30 by a pro-Islamic group that had held him since September 1986.

Reed was the second American freed in two weeks. The other former hostage, Robert Pollitt, told reporters he was not mistreated during his more than three years in captivity.

Reed angrily said it was time for the United States and other governments to negotiate with the pro-Islamic groups believed to be holding 15 other Westerners — including six Americans — in Lebanon.

"What we want is our lives. The duty... is to negotiate even if you have to get in bed with the devil," he said. "You're not going to like that," he told Senators Robert Dole, Edward Kennedy and Daniel Moynihan, who attended the news conference.

Reed sent to US President George Bush a secret message from his captors whose contents he said he had not read. He returned to Walter Reed Army Hospital after the news conference for more medical tests.

Reed did not fully remember what happened to him after his first attempt to escape but said that other

hostages had counted the blows.

"Brian estimated, Brian (Keenan) and John (McCarthy) were in the next cell to me, that I had been hit over 200 times on my head and body," he said. "Two days later I tried it (to escape) again."

The second time he was captured he was struck with a Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifle and his kidneys bled. Reed said he is suffering from severe anaemia, vitamin deficiencies, and the loss of 2.5 kg (50 pounds) largely as a result of trying to keep warm in December. He did not specify if blankets had been taken from him or if he had refused them.

"I was a naughty boy. I lay about in December without any blankets and in attempt to keep, I suppose, my body warm my body ate all the fat that I had on me."

Reed said the hostages were generally well fed and clothed and could request medical and dental assistance. He said he and the other blindfolded hostages were kept in their Lebanese apartment cells chained either to beds with thin foam mattresses or to radiators.

He said that to avoid being punished for looking at their guards the hostages kept their blindfolds on while they slept, exercised, ate or used the toilet.

"I have been lying on my back literally for three and a half years, chained to either a wall or a radiator," he said.

Every morning they were given breakfast, allowed to use the toilet and then were given time to exercise. Reed said he ran around the room and did push-ups.

The bulk of the detainees are members or supporters of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, the Syrian Shiite Amal or the Communist Party.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara accused British leaders yesterday of turning their backs on Britons held hostage in Lebanon.

"The British government is doing nothing to secure the release of their hostages," he told Britain's Independent Television News in Damascus.

Shara said "certain politicians in London" did not want the issue resolved for political reasons. He declined to elaborate and when asked if he meant Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, replied: "You said it."

Captors reject parole

BEIRUT, May 7 (Reuters): Kidnappers of four Belgians said today a parole recommendation for a Palestinian jailed in Belgium for a grenade attack on Jewish children was a positive step but not sufficient to secure freedom for their hostages.

The Belgian news agency Belga, quoting prison sources, said today Nasser Saeed could be paroled from his life sentence as early as July after the recommendation by prison authorities.

"It is a positive proposal but it is not enough because it is not an official government decision," said Walid Khatib, a spokesman in Beirut for the Libyan-backed Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal.

"We hope this proposal is met with a positive response by the Belgian government by immediately releasing Nasser Saeed as a first step to end the Belgian hostage problem," he told Reuters.

The Belgian hostages — Emmanuel Houtekins, his wife Genevieve Kets and their two teenage children — were aboard a yacht in the Mediterranean when they were seized in 1987.

Asked about the condition of the Belgian hostages, Khatib said: "They are in good health, they are given regular medical care and are provided with all their daily needs."

Belga said administrators of Louvain prison regarded Saeed as having been a model prisoner during 10 years in jail.

Saeed said he does not regret throwing hand grenades into a group of Jewish children in Antwerp on July 27, 1980, killing one and injuring several others. He has vowed to resume guerrilla activity once free.

US threat to block PLO bid

GENEVA, May 7, (AP): The annual assembly of the World Health Organisation opened today in the shadow of a renewed US threat to cut off all funds if the meeting approves the membership bid of the PLO's self-declared state of Palestine.

A senior US official said the Palestine Liberation Organisation was not entitled to full voting membership in the UN health agency because it did not meet internationally recognised criteria of statehood, including control of territory.

"Our position remains that we are opposed to PLO membership in WHO," said John Bolton, US assistant secretary of state for international organisation affairs.

More than 100 mostly Third World countries have recognised the Palestinian state since it was proclaimed by the PLO's legislative body in November 1988.

Bolton told a press conference that the United States would be pressing to defer the Palestinian application indefinitely and was holding talks with other countries to gain backing for its position.

The United States is pledged to contribute \$78 million, or 25 per cent, of WHO's regular 1990 budget. It also provides much of the money for programmes outside the regular budget, including WHO's global campaign against AIDS.

Peres leans back into unity cabinet

Compromise formula

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 7, (AP): Labour leader Shimon Peres today suggested a compromise formula that may allow his party to enter a new coalition government with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline Likud bloc.

Peres engineered the collapse of Labour-Likud alliance on March 15, stating Shamir's refusal to accept the US Secretary of State James A. Baker III peace plan.

Baker's plan offered Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo as a venue to advance the Israeli proposal of elections in the occupied territories.

Peres now offered Likud a compromise, saying it only needed to accept an unspecified Palestinian delegation, without agreeing to the Baker plan as such.

What is Baker's to reach an agreement on the composition of the Palestinian delegation," Peres said on Israel Radio. "They need to give a yes answer to the Palestinian delegation."

The topic is the Palestinian delegation and without that I have no one to negotiate with," he added.

Likud has not ruled out preliminary talks between Israel and the Palestinians, but it says a delegation composed according to the American plan would be representing the PLO.

Israel officially refuses to negotiate with the PLO, which it views as a terrorist group.

Likud has stalled preparations for the Cairo talks until the center-left labour called a no-confidence vote that brought down the coalition.

After Peres tried and failed to put together a new government, the role was passed on to Shamir.

Avi Pazner, a top aide to Shamir, said that Likud would form a narrow coalition to govern the country before it considered a new partnership with Labour.

the United States it is considering allowing the remaining Jews to leave.

Yet for most, family reunification is still but a dream. Aviva said the painful memory of a hard 15-month trek from Ethiopia to Sudan followed by almost a year in a refugee camp was nothing compared to the distressing knowledge that her parents were turned back when they took the same route later.

She has not heard from them in three months and has trouble sleeping at night. She said she had been divorced from her husband before leaving Ethiopia.

Avraham, a boarder at Mikveh Israel school in Holon, south of Tel Aviv, was 13 when he walked to Sudan in 1984. His parents had hoped to join him a few months later when a baby brother grew enough to survive the trek.

"They thought they could come but they couldn't. I'm

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Algeria shakes up state media: Algeria has shaken up its state media, promoting young reform-minded journalists to top posts and handing over the two morning daily newspapers to the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

A council of ministers meeting on Sunday night confirmed an announcement last year by FLN secretary general Abdelhamid Mehri that the French-language El Moudjahid and the Arabic language El Chaab would henceforth be run by the ruling party.

Opposition parties have unanimously denounced the move as a seizure of state property by the ruling party, which gave up its 27-year-old monopoly on political life last year. The FLN says it founded the papers and should keep them. (Reuters)

Amnesty to open Amman office: The London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International is to open an office in Amman, newspapers reported yesterday.

The Arabic-language Ad Dustour daily said representatives of the organisation were in Amman seeking official registration from the government of Prime Minister Mulad Badran.

The paper said the Amnesty officials formed a 31-man preparatory committee "to follow up on legal steps for setting up a Jordanian chapter."

Amnesty criticised Jordan's human rights record during a government crackdown early last year. (AP)

800 political prisoners in Egypt: Egypt has freed nearly 400 people on political grounds in the past four months, Interior Minister Mohammed Abdel-Halim Musa said.

Musa said 720 political detainees were in Egyptian jails when he took office on Jan 10 and he had released 300 of them. He said 389 people were arrested in recent sectarian unrest, apparently referring to Muslim fundamentalists agitation, raising the total number of political prisoners to 809.

Musa, answering questions in a meeting at the

Prince Faisal in Cairo



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) meets Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

journalists' union on Sunday night, denied reports of torture in Egyptian jails. "The policy of torture is legally unacceptable and it violates both religion and ethics," he added. (Reuters)

Bashir pardons doctor: Sudanese ruler Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has pardoned a doctor sentenced to death last year for his part in a week-long strike by colleagues in protest against government policy.

Mazmoun Mohammed Hussein was convicted by a military tribunal shortly after the November strike, which was the first industrial action since Bashir seized power from a civilian government in a coup last June.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (Mena), reporting from Khartoum late on Sunday, said Bashir had also freed another doctor involved in the work stoppage and jailed by a military tribunal. (Reuters)

happy here but not 100 per cent happy. I miss my parents very much," he said.

The long separation is not the only cause of distress. One Israeli official, unwilling to be quoted by name, said the government mishandled the Ethiopians, putting some in hotels where the fabric of their patriarchal society was destroyed.

"It's the insanity of poor planning. Israel knew all along they would be coming," he said.

Anthropologist Shoshana Ben Dor said vocational training courses deprived Ethiopian men of their sense of self-respect.

Some critics say Israel has neglected the black Jews in favour of more highly-skilled Soviet Jewish immigrants. Avraham said he was happy tens of thousands of Soviet Jews were coming to Israel and only wished his people

could be as fortunate. Many other Falashas at his school left parents behind. At first pride and self-respect disguised their sadness but in the end they all told the same story.

About 12,000 Ethiopian Jews came to Israel in an airlift, operation Moses, launched in late 1984.

They were fulfilling a 1,000-year-old dream. The exodus was sudden — parents left without their children, children without their parents.

The world knew nothing of the operation until Israeli censorship was broken in January 1985. Press reports angered Sudan and Ethiopia, which halted the emigration. Between 10,000 and 15,000 Ethiopians were left behind.

In November 1989 Israel and Ethiopia renewed diplomatic relations, bringing hope to the Falashas.

Ethiopian Jews in Israel long for loved ones left behind in Addis Ababa

AFULA, Israel, May 7, (Reuters): Children who have not seen their parents in years, brothers growing up apart.

To thousands of Ethiopian Jews in Israel, for whom family is everything, the long separation from loved-ones stirs feelings of guilt and pain that override all personal achievement.

"More than six years ago I left my parents. Until now I wait and they haven't arrived," said Aviva, 28, came to Israel on a secret airlift in 1984 with her two young daughters.

Social workers helping the black Jews to integrate into Israeli society say insomnia, anorexia, loss of appetite and depression are common among those longing for relatives.

Now the immigrants, known as Falashas, have new hope because the government in Addis Ababa, desperate for aid to hold back advancing rebels, has told Israel and

the United States it is considering allowing the remaining Jews to leave.

Yet for most, family reunification is still but a dream. Aviva said the painful memory of a hard 15-month trek from Ethiopia to Sudan followed by almost a year in a refugee camp was nothing compared to the distressing knowledge that her parents were turned back when they took the same route later.

She has not heard from them in three months and has trouble sleeping at night. She said she had been divorced from her husband before leaving Ethiopia.

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"They thought they could come but they couldn't. I'm

Charter controversy continues at KU

Ease conditions, students demand

AS the controversy raged between Kuwait University students and university officials on the ill-fated 1986 internal charter, Kuwait University Rector Dr Shuaib Abdulla Shuaib denied that the university was heading towards catastrophe. According to sources of the Kuwait Students Union at Kuwait University, over 80 per cent of Kuwaiti (male) students admitted in 1986 will not be able to graduate this year because of "the hard and obstructive charter" which puts 75 per cent of Kuwaiti students on the suspension list and a further 7.5 per cent on probation.

The students have been demanding from the university administration the easing of difficult conditions of the charter so that they may graduate.

According to the present charter, students who do not obtain a minimum required average are put on probation. If they don't clear the subjects they failed in during the coming semester, they are suspended.

President of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, University branch, Nasser Al Enzi said that out of 931 Kuwaiti (male) students admitted in 1986, only 309 are still studying at the university and the remaining students have been suspended for not fulfilling the charter rules. He said that among the 309 students expected to graduate later this year, some of them are on probation. Enzi said that figures from the Science Faculty are still more appalling. He said that 84.9 per cent of them have been either suspended or decided to drop out as they couldn't cope with the charter rules. He said that only 7.3 per cent of the Science Faculty students are completely clear while the remaining 9 per cent are on probation. Other colleges are not much better than the Science Faculty as the rates of suspended students in the colleges of Arts, Engineering, Education, Allied Medicine, Sharia (Islamic studies), Commerce and Law are 75.8 per cent, 75.3 per cent, 68.4 per cent, 62.4 per cent, 60 per cent, 52.6 per cent, and 45.8 per cent respectively. The only reasonable rate for suspended students was at the Medical College with only 13.1 per cent.

The students union did not release statistics showing the

rates of suspended female Kuwaiti students and non-Kuwaiti students at Kuwait University, which are expected to be much better.

Kuwait University admit about 3,000 students in the various colleges and faculties every year and 85 per cent of them must be Kuwaitis while 10 per cent of the seats go to expatriates and the remaining 5 per cent to GCC and Yemeni students. Usually the minimum admission average marks in all colleges for expatriates is above 90 per cent and is usually around 95 per cent, while it is slightly less for the GCC students and can go down to 85 per cent. But Kuwaitis who secure about 68 per cent in the Arts section and only 62.4 per cent in the Science section are guaranteed seats at Kuwait University.

During the current academic session over 200 seats out of the university projected 3,000 seats, were left vacant because no more Kuwaiti students were eligible for admission. Many observers have been blaming the "low standard of higher secondary graduates who are admitted by the university, particularly Kuwaitis who enter with low marks, for the present dilemma."

This point was highlighted by the University Rector, Dr Shuaib during a recent interview with a local daily. When he was asked about his opinion of the large number of university students who are either suspended or under probation, the rector said "This is the system. How is it possible for me to pass a student who exerts no effort? What can I do if the students don't study. Do you want me to pass them like that?"

Shuaib stressed that the issue of amending or changing the internal charter requires a lengthy study. He also said that the university is open for the sake and benefit of students and the aim is not to fail them. We wish all of them pass because failure means we spend more money. The official denied that the university administration has been under external pressures.

But the rector announced that the university is currently studying a proposal to introduce an "Intermediate Year" before first year which is expected to solve most of the problems. He said

that a new charter would thus be introduced. But this remains a proposal and requires lengthy study. Dr Shuaib said that the intermediate year would solve the problem of the student's inability to continue studying at the university. He added that during the intermediate year, the student would be given the opportunity to examine his true abilities and wishes and thus won't lose much time in deciding what to do.

He said that despite the large number of probations and suspensions, the marks at the university remain high adding he would submit a study on this phenomenon to the university next week. The university official categorically denied the claim that the university was heading towards catastrophe because of the large number of suspended Kuwaiti students.

Amendments
Dr Shuaib denied any disputes with the students union. He said he received them frequently and discussed wide ranging issues with them including the charter. He admitted that the changing of the university charter comes only from the university council after taking the opinions and views of all the sides concerned.

Meanwhile, informed university sources said that the university council may adopt a conciliatory proposal suggested by the assistant rector for scientific affairs, Dr Najib Al Salem. Salem proposed in a study submitted to the council to amend articles 10 and 13 of the charter, thus helping to reduce the number of suspended students and those on probation.

The amendment for article 10 calls to increase the number of subjects that students can fail in and still carry them while article 13 amendment aims at reducing the minimum required average to avoid getting put on probation and ultimately suspension.

According to the present article 13 students are put on probation if they get less than 1.67 points for those who studied less than 45 hours and 2.00 points for those who studied over 45 hours. Dr Salem proposed to divide the second category into two, the first from 45-75 hours and should need 1.87 points to pass and the second over 75 hours who should get at least 2.00 points to pass.

Kuwaitis who ape Western culture slammed

Stop victimising children: Sheikhha Nashmiya

SHEIKHA Nashmiya Al Ahmad Al Sabah severely criticised Kuwaitis who travel abroad and on their return try to lead westernised lives stressing that this is merely hypocrisy.

She underscored the fact that Kuwaitis blatantly try to smuggle narcotics into the country and commented that expats would not venture to attempt such activities. Hypothetically speaking, she added, even if they did, their number was insignificant.

Social disintegration of the Kuwaiti family is the result of the absence of parental guidance. She added: "Kuwaiti youth must discard their sense of over-dependence and develop self-reliance based on their true estimated values and better equipped to face the future."

She urged women societies to shoulder greater responsibilities and cited women for the increase in the number of cases of polygamy which affects children to a great extent. She called on schools to effectively perform their role in effectively integrating children with society and preparing them to be valuable citizens of tomorrow.

In the final analysis, she said that the frequency of travel abroad, imbibing unwanted foreign customs

and values, financial comforts and the lack of parental guidance all contributed to the delinquency of youth.

She said that most working mothers depend on house maids for taking care of the children, and unfortunately many of these mothers are well educated but still unable to differentiate that a house maid may be good at doing the housework, but never any good at rearing children.

She said that women whose husbands marry again have themselves to blame as it is most often than not the responsibility of the woman for failing to honour her obligations as a mother, housewife, or partner in the marriage establishment.

She added that whatever the situation may be the children are always the victims.

Sheikhha Nashmiya pointed out that all senior officials are but square pegs in round holes and that some are not so public-spirited as they claim to be. She further added that national allegiance must be reflected sincerely by all no matter what their positions are, and people must not let their personal interests get the better of them and make them forget their public responsibilities.



Plans for new Khiran finalised

KUWAIT municipality has completed physical plans of the new city to be located at Al Khiran, while plans of the master plan of Sibbiya's new city are underway.

The two cities will contain all public services, including the touristic and entertainment utilities, the director of organisation at the municipality, Musa Al Sarraf said and added that Bubiyan Chalet Project is being comprehensively studied by the ministries of finance and public works.

The official said that the municipality co-ordinated with the Environment Protection Council several years ago to allocate a number of sites for spring camps every year.

These sites have been allocated in Layah, Mutlaa, Doha and Wafra areas and have been selected as they contain the requisite public services. Kuwait municipality has allocated a site for the establishment of Kuwait National Park at Jal Al Zour and Umm Al Rimam area and will serve to provide afforestation to the nearby housing areas and will also serve as a camping and entertainment area. The site is the focus of studies being conducted by the Public Authority for Agriculture.

Development

Sarraf said that the municipality suggested developing other areas in the desert which have been identified as: Wadi Al Baten, Shagaya, Umm Rigga, North of Sibbiya, Kbiran and Nuwaisib. A similar study is also planned for developing the resort of Failaka Island. He said that natural reserves will be established around these areas, and camps will be held in the years to come.

Essentially, he said that the municipality is undertaking a study of the third revision of the masterplan of the state.

Qatari envoy

SANAA, May 7. (Kuna): President of Arab Republic of Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh last night received the adviser of the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Al Thani who delivered him a message from the Amir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani.

The message included Qatar's support to the restoration of the unity of the two Yemens. The message also dealt with bilateral relations and international and Arab developments.



Omani minister received

The Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al Khaleel received in his office recently the Omani Minister of Commerce and Industry Salem Al Ghazali who was in Kuwait for a short visit. They discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and the agenda of the coming meeting of GCC Commercial and Economic Co-operation Committee that will be held at the end of this month.

20 new schools next year

No terminations at MOE: Nouri

THE ministry of education has no intention to terminate the services of some of its employees at the present time, the minister of education Anwar Al Nouri said and added that the ministry's employment and termination policies are determined according to its needs.

The official said that as of the next academic year, the ministry intends to undertake a project related to administering schools along modern lines and if the experiment proves a success it will be extended to encompass all schools in the country.

Nouri said that the ministry is focusing its efforts on diversification of the secondary education curriculum. Basically, he said that the concept is to provide a proper mix of all majors into one system which will provide a well-rounded curriculum to students to pursue their higher education in any field of life or sciences. Briefly, he said that this can be termed as the integrated educational system that is similar to the courses system and added that a special conference will be held in Kuwait to discuss the highlights of the projects.

Languages
The official said that the ministry is keen to teach foreign languages to students, particularly English, as students who go abroad for advanced studies need as a prerequisite a good command of the English language.

In this context, he said that the ministry is projected to help children in the kindergartens to speak classical Arabic and has centered on Obud Kindergarten for this purpose. Results have been encouraging, he added. He expressed the hope that the ministry will extend the experiment to four new kindergartens in different educational areas by the beginning of the next academic year. These children will be assisted to develop their classical Arabic acumen when they enter primary schools, the official disclosed.

Air conditioning
Meanwhile, the undersecretary of the ministry of education, Abdul Rahman Al Khodari said that all intermediate and secondary schools in Kuwait will be air conditioned as a follow up to having air conditioned all primary schools and kindergartens as at the start of the present academic year.

In the interim, he said that the ministry has provided special air conditioned halls to be venues for exams of the Secondary Schools Certificate to be held next month and has set up 90 exam committees at different educational areas for evaluating these exam papers.

The official said that the ministry will open 20 new schools next scholastic year and — most of which are to be located in new housing areas like Qurain and west of Fintas.

UAE forces unification anniversary

ABU DHABI, May 7. (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad commented editorially yesterday on the 14th anniversary of the unification of the UAE armed forces, saying in part: "The UAE celebrates today the 14th anniversary of merging the armed forces, a day realised by the efforts of His Highness President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and symbolises unity and cohesion among the UAE people."

"Unifying the UAE armed forces was one of the most important accomplishments of His Highness Sheikh Zayed and their highnesses the supreme council members and rules of the emirates."

"His Highness's calls for unity were not confined to the UAE but were on the Gulf and Arab levels, out of his belief that we are part and parcel of the Arab nation ... This has made the president a frequent caller for Arab solidarity to promote Arab causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian problem. It is a national responsibility embodied by His Highness."

Oman plans to counter lethal flash floods

MUSCAT, May 7. (AP): City water officials yesterday unveiled plans to counter deadly flash floods which kill residents in the capital and its environs every year.

Two flood control dams are to be constructed at strategic risk locations in Muscat and a study will be carried out to pinpoint other hazardous low-lying areas across the rest of the country, a water resources ministry spokesman said.

The dams will be built in Wadi Muscat and at Wadi Lansab near Ghallah, surface water department deputy director Wayne Curry told the Associated Press.

Phenomenon
Rainfall in Oman, which lies on the southeastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is erratic and flash floods are a frequent phenomenon. More than 50 millimetres (one-fifth of an inch) of water can fall in a 24-hour period. That is equal to half the average precipitation for an entire year in Oman.

The rain turns dry water courses into rushing torrents of water, sweeping roads and valleys.

During the last flash floods in spring, 10 people died trapped in flooded cars, and swollen gulches left a trail of debris and destruction in their wake, including smashed shanties and drowned livestock.

"Industrial sites, government offices and houses are all threatened in these areas because of the potential for flooding," he said.

Study
Curry, a US engineering hydrologist from Missoula, Montana, said the flash floods posed a major problem, particularly in the centre of Muscat, the Ghallah industrial areas and Al Hail on the capital's outskirts.

"The study will identify other areas where action should be taken so that recommendations for preventive measures can be made," he said. "The problem can usually be alleviated by dams, protected channels or levees," Curry said.

The cost of the two dams will be more than 2 million rials (\$5 million), according to unofficial estimates. Muscat municipal authorities have appointed British consultants to design the project with state water resources specialists.

French team to pursue centuries-old settlements

MUSCAT, May 7. (AP): An international team of archaeologists who uncovered the remains of 50-century-old human settlements in Oman is to return to seek further evidence of ancient trading links with other civilisations, a French official said today.

Findings dating back to 3000 BC close to Ras Al Hadd, 232 miles (340 kilometres) southeast of Muscat, included remains of fishing villages and pot shards traced to the Indus Civilisation, said Alain Courmont, scientific attaché at the French embassy, he said.

Twelve French and Italian archaeologists would resume excavations on the discovery site at Ras Al Junayz in December, he said.

The dig is approximately 1-2 miles (1 km) from one of the last, undisturbed turtle nesting grounds in the world.

The December expedition will be led by Prof. Serge Cleuziou of the archaeological department of the Paris-based National Centre for Scientific Research.

Cleuziou has overseen excavations on five visits to Oman since 1985.

"They have found remains of fishermen's villages of many different ages as well as Indus-linked pottery at Ras Al Junayz," Courmont said.

"It's an extremely interesting site and one they feel is worth a great deal more investigation."

Further studies will also be made of the result of an archaeological survey on the coast at Ras Al Hamra, 12 1/2 miles (20 kms) northwest of the capital, a government heritage spokesman said.

Evidence of an ancient fishing community settlement, including 100 human skeletons and pearl remains dating back to 4000 BC, was unearthed, said Saeed Al Farsi, assistant director of the state's archaeology department.

"The finds will eventually be put on public display," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Illiteracy meet

KUWAIT, May 7. (Kuna): A GCC regional conference on illiteracy resumed deliberations here yesterday for the second day running to hammer out means to minimise number of illiterates in the six member countries.

The conferees started their fourth working session to discuss ways to wipe out illiteracy through endeavours of women's cultural and social societies and labourers' cultural programmes.

In the fifth session, held later, the participants reviewed joint co-operation in exchange of expertise and literacy project, particularly co-ordinated effort by ministries of education and interior in this regard.

The conferees held their closing session last evening to discuss obstacles of illiteracy programmes in the Arab Gulf countries in the light of a paper to be presented by Kuwait's Workers Union.

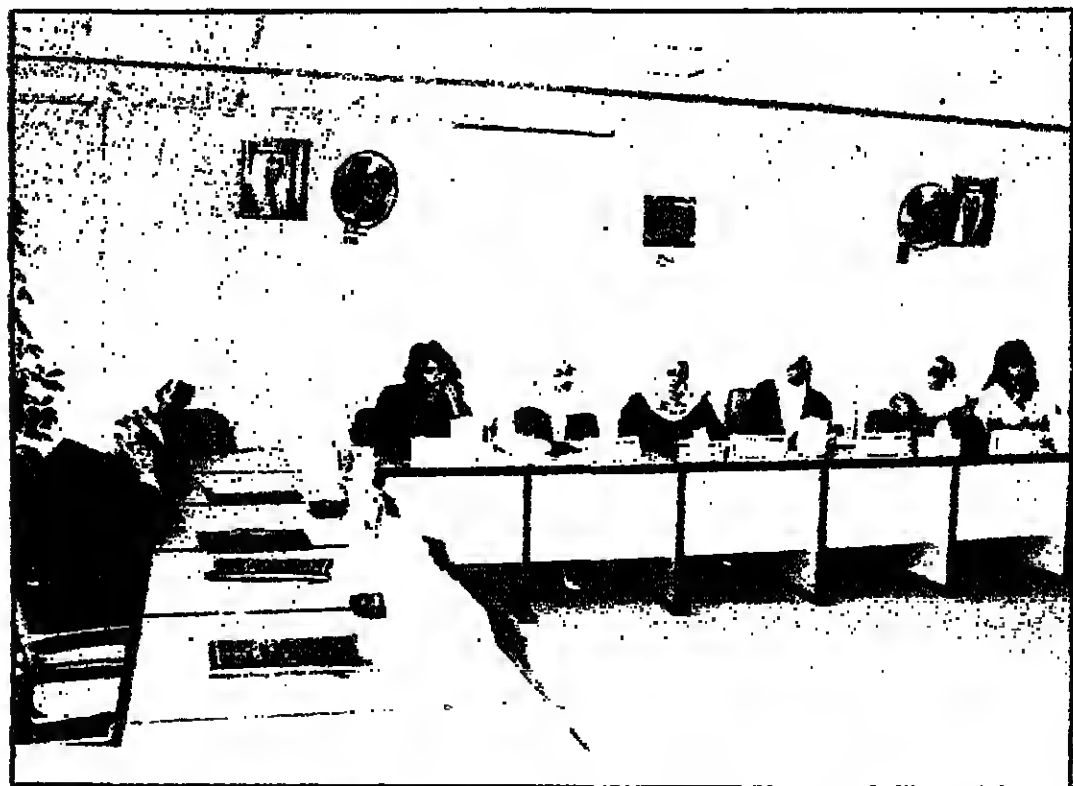
Kuwaiti message

DOHA, May 7. (Kuna): Qatari Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Abdul Rahman Saad Al Derham received a message from his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

The Qatari News Agency reported that the message tackled relations between the two Gulf states and means of enhancing them in addition to boosting joint Arab Gulf march.

Indian embassy

EMBASSY OF INDIA: Kuwait will remain closed on Wednesday, May 9, 1990 on the occasion of "Buddha Purnima".



Paet training courses

Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) has resumed its training activities by organising six courses for government employees this week, according to a press release.

It added that these training courses will cover several topics including administrative follow-up procedures, administrative supervision, financial planning and the preparing of planning budgets, the upgrading of technical know-how, secretariat and library management and executive secretariat. Picture shows some trainees listening to a lecture.

Cattle merchant criticises livestock firm

A CATTLE merchant has criticised the Livestock Trading and Transporting Company (LTTC) for the sharp reduction of prices of Australian sheep in the local market.

He said that the price of a head of Australian sheep had been reduced from KD 17 to KD 10,500 after the end of Ramadan

and said that the reduction has no justification.

The company's claims that its move is designed to protect customers, rings hollow, he said, because if this were true, this gesture should have come during the Holy Month of Ramadan or before the onset of the month of fasting.

He commented that this measure was taken only to gain a monopoly in the local market, by liquidating any competition and when this was achieved to increase the prices substantially.

He added that the only beneficiaries are butchers who buy the product at lower prices and sell at higher levels. Hard hit are customers who are now worried as to the course of the price level in the near future.

Butchers cited the sharp reduction in prices of Australian meat to severe competition between LTTC and other private companies. The latter face huge losses, while LTTC increases its sales, they said.

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Kuwaiti aid arrives at Syrian-Lebanese border

Premier's representative in Damascus

DAMASCUS, May 7. (Kuna): The representative of HH the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier Diwan's Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Saud Al Sabah arrived here yesterday to supervise the delivery of the second Kuwaiti batch of assistance to Lebanon.

He was received at the airport by Kuwait's Ambassador to Damascus, Ahmad Aziz Al Jassam and other

embassy staffers. Sheikh Mubarak discussed with Lebanese officials entrusted with receiving Kuwaiti aid materials, the plan of handling and distributing those materials, affirming the necessity that all Lebanese should receive their share of the relief materials.

He also discussed with the Syrian Customs Department Director Gen. Moham-

med Bashir Al Najar ways of facilitating the crossing of the second Kuwaiti convoy to Lebanon through Syria to which it will arrive today.

The convoy, consisting of 40 trucks loaded with medical equipment and foodstuffs, will be handed to the concerned Lebanese authorities in the city of Shoura of the joint Lebanese-Syrian borders. The Kuwaiti official hailed the honest

co-operation expressed by the Syrian officials at all levels and their keenness to convey the assistance to the Lebanese people in good shape at the proper time.

Sheikh Mubarak delivered the first shipment of 20 trucks loaded with food and medical equipment to the concerned Lebanese authorities last April 18.

The second Kuwaiti batch contained relief materials worth five million dollars.

Shuaibiyat residents object to demolition

RESIDENTS of Shuaibiyat in old Jahra have objected to the quick demolition of the residential area, and wondered if the decision-makers responsible for the demolition idea have provided them with alternate accommodation.

A poll conducted by a local daily included a series of interviews with residents of the area revealed that, although the houses there are not in good structural condition, they could however last for five more years.

The interviews revealed that the area has four thousand residents mostly low-income Kuwaitis, including retired people, and that the re-location of families will result in a great inconvenience to students who go to nearby schools.

Considerations. Beddahi Eniz said that the establishment of the governorate council has done little to slow down efforts to demolish the houses in the area, under the pretext of aesthetic considerations. He said that this left the residents in the area with no time to think what to do if the demolition decision went ahead. He added that the relocation to small flats will be a difficult choice, as the families will be inconvenienced to live in small flats with their large families.

Enezi pointed out that the area originally suffered from a lack of a number of services and that residents had a hard time travelling to the city to complete their official transactions, or seek medical attention as the clinics here are always overcrowded and close early.

Salah Faisal, another resident in the area, said that the demolition decision was not well studied, as the majority of residents are low-income citizens.

He added that the members of families are too many, which makes it extremely difficult for them to bear the high rentals of flats which reach KD250 per month.

Relocation. He pointed out that the majority of houses in the area, despite the existing condition, could last for five more years, until a more appropriate alternative had been decided on.

Saudi Al Mutairi said that the demolition decision will be acceptable if a suitable alternative was provided.



Iranian envoy

Editor-in-Chief of Dar Al Seyassah and Arab Times, Ahmed Al Jarallah received in his office on Sunday the Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait, Hussein Sadli. Discussions during the interview dealt with the situation in the region and efforts exerted to stabilise peace in the area.

Better relations sought

UAE President embarks on three-nation tour

ABU DHABI, May 7. (Kuna): United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan today left for Beijing on a six-day state visit.

The visit comes within a tour by Sheikh Zayed that will take him to Japan on May 13 and Indonesia on May 19.

Talks with leaders of these countries will centre on ways of boosting joint relations between the UAE and Japan, Indonesia and China.

Talks will also focus on Arab and international issues.

Sheikh Zayed stressed that the aim of his visit to China is to develop existing relations.

The President hailed the friendly and deep-rooted relations that link Arabs to Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian people.

Sheikh Zayed made the remarks during separate interviews with journalists from the three countries ahead of his visits to China, Japan and Indonesia starting today.

Asked about the aim of his visit to China, Sheikh Zayed said that the mission was aimed at boosting co-operation between the two countries with special emphasis on what is serving the prosperity and interest of the two peoples.

Acquaintance. "Besides enhancing bilateral co-operation, our visit to China will be an opportunity to get acquainted with the accomplish-

ments in China in various development domains," Sheikh Zayed said.

Referring to the accomplishments made by the UAE since its independence in 1971, Sheikh Zayed told the Chinese media delegates that the development and prosperity realised by the UAE within this short period was due to rapid economic growth and "our determination to achieve further progress and raise citizens' living standards."

"With the blessing of God the Almighty, our hope is great to proceed towards attaining further progress and prosperity," Sheikh Zayed said.

Faith. In response to a question on UAE efforts to achieve Arab unity and strengthen co-operation with the developing nations, Sheikh Zayed said "our faith in God comes first, then comes our strong belief in the necessity of establishing friendship and co-operation among all countries as there is common interest for humanity as a whole ... we also believe that the power, progress and prosperity of the Arabs lies in their co-operation," he said.

Sheikh Zayed is accompanied by a high ranking delegation grouping Minister of Defence Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, head of the Public Works Department Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, President's representative

Ahmed Al Suaidi and Minister of Petrol and Mineral Resources Dr Mansour Al Otaibi.

The UAE President is also accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi, in addition to a media delegation.

Crucial. Meanwhile, a United Arab Emirates daily highlighting the importance of President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan's visits to China, Japan and Indonesia said today "the visit comes at a crucial time for regional and international trade and diplomacy."

"While China is an influential Asian power with permanent membership of the UN Security Council, Japan is an economic superpower and Indonesia is a fellow member of Opec, the Islamic Conference Organisation and the Non-Aligned Movement," the Dubai-based English language Khaleej Times added.

Noting the role played by Sheikh Zayed in Gulf and Middle East peace process, especially on Palestinian causes the paper said "Sheikh Zayed will almost certainly press home the Arab viewpoint that influential members of the international community like China, Japan and Indonesia should exert pressure on Israel and its backers to make peace with the Palestinians under the leadership of PLO."

During his stay in Damascus the Saudi Crown Prince held talks with President Hafez Assad on the latest Arab developments and ways to improve mutual co-operation, co-ordination and collective Arab work to confront problems faced by the Arab nation.

Political observers here believe that Prince Abdullah's tour is aimed at boosting current Arab efforts to remove hindrances lying in front of convocation of the PLO-proposed emergency Arab summit in discuss the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories and other important issues, due to be held in Baghdad this month.

News report indicated that Prince Abdullah is also carrying a Saudi proposal to convene a five-party summit in Riyadh, which will include heads of state of Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Jordan with the aim of seeking reconciliation between Damascus and Baghdad and to guarantee president Assad's participation in the upcoming Baghdad summit.

The Saudi official is also scheduled to visit Egypt.

Citizens support election modalities

By Fawzi Al Tamimi

A NUMBER of citizens have supported the modalities for electing members of the National Council and hoped that candidates who are elected will do their utmost to serve their homeland and the people.

The general consensus is that the speech of HH the Amir in which he declared the establishment of the National Council is evidence of the response of HH the Amir to the demands of his people within the limits of democracy.

They stressed on the importance of co-operation between people and government and added that members of the National Council should spare no efforts to serve the nation.

They stressed on the need for sacrifices to make this democratic experiment a success and called on members to co-operate and defend the rights of citizens within the limits of law.

They also hoped that Kuwaiti women will be allowed to participate in elections as candidates as in some Arab countries. This will ensure that women are given their legitimate rights in the Kuwaiti society, they said and added that Kuwaiti women have a strong personality and occupy many high posts in the government sector.

They called on members of the council to debate vital issues and develop educational, economic and health services.

Prince Abdallah on third leg of Arab tour

AMMAN, May 7. (Kuna): Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah Bin Abdul Aziz arrived here today on the third leg of his Arab tour, which took him so far to Damascus and Baghdad.

Prince Abdallah is carrying a message from King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz addressed to King Hussein on the convocation of the proposed extraordinary Arab summit; current efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and issues of mutual concern.

Prince Abdallah, upon arrival, immediately went to the royal palace for talks with King Hussein.

Saudi embassy sources in Baghdad informed the Gulf News Agency (GNA) that Prince Abdallah carried a message from Saudi Monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein concerning bilateral relations and the Arab situation.

During his stay in Damascus the Saudi Crown Prince held talks with President Hafez Assad on the latest Arab developments and ways to improve mutual co-operation, co-ordination and collective Arab work to confront problems faced by the Arab nation.

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Banquet at Towers

Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday hosted a dinner banquet in honour of visiting Moroccan Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Hassan at Kuwait Towers. HH Sheikh Saad Al Abudhien, ministers, governors and members of the Moroccan delegation as well as senior officials and heads of diplomatic missions were attended the banquet.

Meanwhile (below), visiting Moroccan Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Hassan received at his residence at Al Salam Palace yesterday State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saad Al Ossami.

Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasser Al Roudhan, who heads the guest's honorary mission and ranking officials of the Moroccan delegation were present.



Dr Behbihani to run

(Continued from Page 1)

Abdulla Abdul Aziz Al Boudiawi

3rd constituency — Qibla

Khaleel Yousef Al Shatti, Faisal Hmoud Al Shai'i

4th constituency — Da'ya

Samir Mohamed Al Mutawa, Mousafa Yaqoub Behbihani

6th constituency — Faiha

Jassem Mohamed Al Marrouk, Bader Yousef Al Majed

7th constituency — Kaifan

Fahad Al Fahed Alabdul Wahhab, Mohamed Fouzan Al Anjari

8th constituency — Hawalli

Abdulla Saoud Al Khamees

10th constituency — Adaliya

Abdulla Mhanan Al Mhana

15th constituency — Farwaniya

Eid Haddad Al Rasheedi, Laili Shalal Al Mutairi, Bandar Khaled Al Faleh, Mbarak Moutaq Al Rasheedi, Mohamed Gounaim Al Azemi, Ali Salman Al Haili

18th constituency — Sulabikhat

Hamdan Abdullah Al Rasheedi, Rashed Salman Al Haddad

19th constituency — New Jahra

Salem Zamama Al Sulaimani, Za'al Damghi Al Rasheedi

20th constituency — Jahra

Jamal Matar Al Msa'ir, Fahed Fraih Al Fraih

21st constituency — Ahmedi

Saad Nayef Al Hajiri, Rashed Hmoud Al Sahli, Fahad Eid Al Azemi, Fahad Hamad Al Ajmi, Satam Saoud Al Sahli

22nd constituency — Riqia

Ghani Mhaiz'e Al Shimari, Moawik Misha'al Al Sha'ani

23rd constituency — Sabahiya

Salmao Abdullah Al Miah, Mbarak Faleh Al Ajmi, Abdullah Mithib Al Azemi, Mbarak Faleh Al Ajmi, Abdullah Mithib Al Azemi, Fahad Saoud Al Sahli

24th constituency — Fahheel

Jamal Ayed Al Otaibi, Abdul Aziz Jali Al Jrayed

Omani message

MUSCAT, May 7. (Kuna): Minister of the Omani Royal Court Saif Bin Hamed Bin Saud left here today for Jeddah to deliver a message from Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed to King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

Security training for Arab officers

SAUDI ARABIA'S Arab Centre for Security Studies and Training is to organise a training course for a number of Arab specialised officers in co-operation with the Austrian Home Office, according to the supervisor of higher education and training at the centre, Dr Mohammed Alem.

In an interview with the Gulf News Agency (GNA), the official was quoted as saying that the training course will commence in Vienna next Monday and will last for three weeks. The course aims at training participants on the latest methods of fighting terrorism, including countering assassination attempts, and modalities of undertaking negotiations with terrorists, including basic knowhow for obtaining the release of hostages, the use of state-of-the-art equipment and the protection of VIPs.

The programme has been designed to meet Arab security requirements and to develop trained Arab security personnel capable of confronting terrorism and other crimes.

Rare art, jewellery under the gavel

Spring auction May 12-18

GENEVA, May 7. (Kuna): Once again, Geneva will be at the heart of action which the city will attract connoisseurs from all corners of the world to bid for rare art works and extravagant jewellery.

Spring sales by major auction houses in Geneva will take place from May 12-18.

Experts have already begun speculating as to whether 1990 will be as prosperous in sales as was the previous year, where auction houses Christie's and Sotheby's alone realised a total of 255 million Swiss francs (SF), a progression of more than 27 per cent from the year before.

On May 14, Habsburg, Feldman is organising the first sale offering objects exclusively made of precious metals from varying periods and cultures, including early Islamic, Egypt, Western Asia, Greece, Etruria, ancient Rome, Byzantium and Japanese. Oriental and tribal items ranging in date from the 7th to early 20th centuries.

Highlights of this sale include two sixth century Byzantine silver plates, estimated at 400-500,000 SF, and a rare and important group of turquoise studded Sarmatian plaques estimated at 700-800,000 SF. Also featured will be a wearable classical Greek necklace of the early fourth century BC with a pair of earrings of slightly earlier date, estimated at 200-300,000 SF, as well as a large group of wearable rings of many periods and cultures ranging from 5000-100,000 SF.

Christie's on May 13 will be auctioning a lot of 20th century decorative arts, including a lamp by Galle (estimate: 600-800,000 SF) made entirely of glass except for a three-pronged bronze mount, and decorated with a profusion of red peonies on a yellow ground, and one by Daum made out of bronze (estimate: 1,500,000-2,500,000 SF).

On May 16 Christie's will hold a clocks and watches sale, including a platinum open-faced dress watch by Cartier, circa 1926 (estimate: 300-400,000 SF) and a 1970 white gold perpetual calendar wristwatch by Patek Philippe (estimate: 50-60,000 SF).

The sale of Russian works of art and Faberge have become a tradition in the rooms of Geneva auction houses, after all, Carl Faberge, goldsmith of the Tsars, fled Russia, following the abdication of Nicolas II and the massacre of the imperial family, to Lausanne where he died in 1920.

The most expensive Faberge egg was sold by Christie's Geneva on May 10, 1989 for 5,280,000 SF to a New York dealer, who purchased it on behalf of a client.

This year, on May 16, Christie's will auction a number of Russian works of art including an 8.4 centimetre high silver-mounted and guilloché enamel egg-cup by Faberge (estimate: 20-30,000 SF).

On May 15 a collection of European silver and objects of Vertu will be auctioned. Highlights of which include a selection of 18th century Belgian silver from the collection of the late Baron Charles de Rosen, individual pieces estimated 120-150,000 SF.

Competition among auction houses will be tight in the area of "magnificent jewels." Both Sotheby's and Christie's are proposing a Van Cleef and Arpels sapphire and diamond necklace from the 1960s (estimate: 1,000,000 SF).

Other pieces being sold by Christie's include a rectangular-cut diamond ring of 24.04 carats (estimate: 2-2,500,000 SF) and a pear-shaped diamond weighing 51.63 carats, only five or six other similar stones have been seen in the world market in the past few decades (estimate: 4,800,000 SF).

On May 15 Habsburg-Feldman will present a more than 300 pieces of jewellery, among which an almost square octagon-cut stone of fancy yellow colour and weighing 22.32 carats mounted between triangular diamond shoulders in a platinum setting (estimate: 300-400,000 SF) and a potentially flawless pear-shaped stone weighing 14.12 carats claw-set between tapering baguette-diamond shoulders (estimate: 300-500,000 SF).

US warships mark 150th anniversary of Arab ship visit

MUSCAT, May 7. (AP): Two US warships paid a courtesy call today on the Omani navy to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first visit to America by an Arabian ship.

Commanders of the destroyer USS Ingersoll and frigate USS Fanning docked at Port Qaboos to meet senior naval officers to

mark the voyage of the three-masted Omani Barque Al Sultanah to New York in 1840.

Ingersoll and Fanning crews will donate blood to the National Blood Bank and take part in a number of sporting activities, a US embassy spokesman said.

The ship's officers will host a luncheon for Omani officers tomorrow to celebrate the

anniversary of the Sultanah's visit to the New York naval yard.

Aboard the Sultanah when it sailed into New York harbour was the first Arab envoy to the United States, Ahmed Na'man.

He was sent by Sultan Saeed, a direct ancestor of Oman's present ruler Sultan Qaboos. The voyage from Muscat took 17

weeks.

Among the ship's cargo of gifts for then US president Martin van Buren were two stud horses, 120 diamonds, a cask of rosewater and a Persian silk carpet.

The officers and crew of the Sultanah rode on the Long Island railway and visited a penitentiary while the naval yard carried out a refit of the ship for

the voyage home.

Ahmed Na'man had his portrait painted by the then eminent New York artist Edward Mooney.

The Sultanah returned with presidential gifts for the Sultan, including a pleasure barge and four mahogany chests containing colt revolvers and repeating rifles inscribed in Arabic.

Transport returns

THE Kuwait Public Transport Company's (KPTC) financial returns last year amounted to KD9,028,150.

The breakdown is as follows: Public transport: KD3,342,381; private transport: KD2,194,197; saloon cars: KD324,623; maintenance workshops: KD882,125; sale of fixed assets: KD141,018; rents: KD135,815; interest on bank deposits: KD1,965,260 and miscellaneous profit: KD281,451.

But a responsible source at the company said that KPTC suffered a loss of KD34,322 in running the marine transport service last year compared to a loss of KD165,982 in 1988. He added that returns of the company last year totalled KD9,232,548 compared to KD5,969,428 in 1988 and net profits amounted to KD5,877,022 compared to KD3,289,667 in the same period.

INDIA FESTIVAL

THANK YOU

This is to express our deepest thanks to the Government of Kuwait, H.E. the Ambassador of India Mr. A.K. Budhiraja, the Embassy of India, the L.C.C.R. (New Delhi), the Members of I.A.C., the various cultural and regional associations, the Indian School, the New Indian School, the Gulf Security Co., the Equestrian Club, various commercial establishments, the Al Riyadh Printing Press, the Al Sayer Press, the Kuwait Times and the Arab Times for their excellent coverage, the Kazma Stadium Managing Committee, Christy for sound and light and many, many individuals from all walks of life for their help and participation in the INDIA FESTIVAL.

We are deeply indebted to the organising committee for their excellent performance in the service of the community.

Managing Committee
Indian Arts Circle

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IF MANKIND had wished for what is right, they might have had it long ago — William Hazlitt, English essayist (1778-1830).

Unwanted arms out Fresh trouble in Nato camp

WASHINGTON, (UPI): President Bush simply bowed to political reality in Europe by announcing a willingness to remove unwanted short-range nuclear weapons. He failed to mention their intended replacement: an air-launched missile.

"We're trading in two handguns and replacing them with an assault rifle," said Daniel Plesch of the British American Security Information Council. "I think that has to send a negative signal to the Soviets."

Bush announced he was cancelling modernisation of short-range nuclear forces in Europe and he opened the door for US-Soviet negotiations on removing all such weapons following the signing of a conventional arms reduction agreement.

He appeared to have little choice.

Warheads

The United States has an estimated 3,710 ground-based nuclear warheads in Europe — about 700 on the ageing Lance short-range missile, 1,500 on artillery shells and another 1,500 on gravity and depth bombs.

Lance — mostly in West Germany — has a range of about 80 miles (130 km) and artillery has a range of about 18 miles (30 km). In other words, the only target these weapons can hit are the Eastern European countries that are now friendly to the West.

Nato may wish to scrap the modernisation of some nuclear weapons, but the emotive question of the nuclear deterrent in Europe could yet return to haunt the alliance.

Arms experts and Nato diplomats say it may be only a matter of time before the issue stirs up passions and tears holes in the fabric of alliance unity, as it has done so often in the past.

"There will still be nuclear weapons in Europe, we all agree on that here," said one Nato diplomat. "Moscow will still have them. The question is then, how do we structure our forces and justify it to our peoples? There could perhaps be trouble."

A senior Nato official, briefing reporters before defence ministers meet next week in Canada to consider nuclear issues, put it more bluntly.

Controversy

"There are people who believe that even one nuclear weapon is one too many. Any decision we take will not be without political controversy," he said.

The key question is where to base a new generation of air-launched missiles, expected to become the main component of Nato's nuclear forces in Europe now that ground-based missiles and nuclear artillery are not to be modernised — a decision announced on Thursday at a meeting of Nato foreign ministers.

"There will undoubtedly be traumas about this," said Regina Cowen-Karp, a nuclear expert with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

She said that, with Eastern Europe now democratic and a more benign Soviet foreign policy, there could be very strong popular resistance to deploying new air-launched missiles — as there was in countries such as West Germany and Belgium when Nato deployed new medium-range missiles at the start of the 1980s.

"The important thing will be how Western political parties deal with that," she said.

The alliance, in cancelling the modernisation programme for Lance missiles and nuclear artillery, has only just succeeded in ending a row which divided it into two camps — those who wanted talks with Moscow and those who wanted new, improved weapons.

West Germany and Britain are the areas most likely for deployment of a new US air-launched missile with a range of less than 500 km (300 miles), expected to be ready by 1995.

But West Germany faces elections this December and the Social Democrats (SPD) are mounting a strong challenge to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition.

The SPD has said that it could accept a united Germany's membership of Nato but that it would not want nuclear weapons there, a viewpoint sharply opposed by the alliance.

Elections in Britain, which has its own nuclear weapons, are not due until 1992. But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a staunch ally of the United States, is suffering her worst political crisis in 11 years of government.

"The point is that if we get governments in Britain and Germany that are reluctant to deploy the new missiles, we could be in very serious trouble," the Nato diplomat said.

"One would be hard pressed to find other European countries willing to take it. Now, more than ever, people will be asking: 'Why do we need these weapons?'"

That could leave only two options for Nato, both equally uncertain and fraught with difficulties.

The United States could base its nuclear-armed aircraft on carriers off the coasts of Europe.

But Nato sources say that would involve huge extra expense when Washington is cutting defence spending and would break a basic alliance rule — that the political burden of nuclear weapons must be carried by more than one country.

The other alternative might be to involve France, which left Nato's military structure in 1966 and maintains an independent nuclear force.

So far, Nato sources say, there is no sign that France would want to give up its fiercely independent line or base US nuclear weapons on its territory.

The senior Nato official said sea-launched cruise missiles would not compensate fully for the absence of land-based short-range systems.

"They don't provide the land-based, visual deterrent that we still need," he said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1704 — British forces under Duke of Marlborough begin march to Danube river.

1811 — British under Duke of Wellington defeat French at Fuentes d'Ontro in Portugal.

1852 — Integrity of Denmark is guaranteed through treaty of London by Britain, France, Russia, Prussia, Austria and Sweden.

1895 — Japan surrenders Liao Tung peninsula and Port Arthur to China in return for huge indemnity.

1879 — Greece asks major powers to intervene in its war with Turkey.

1916 — Australia-New Zealand forces arrive in France during World War I.

1921 — Capital punishment is abolished in Sweden.

1926 — French fleet bombards Damascus in revolt of the Druzes.

1945 — Victory in Europe — V-E day — is proclaimed in World War II.

1965 — Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, leader of Muslims in Kashmir, is arrested during stopover in New Delhi, India.

1975 — US president Gerald Ford reaffirms America military support of South Korea in his campaign to reassure US allies in Asia after fall of South Vietnam to communists.

1987 — Iranian gunboat rakes Soviet freighter with cannon fire — first attack on a Soviet vessel in Gulf since Iran-Iraq war started 6 1/2 years previously.

1988 — Pope John Paul II, visiting Uruguay's "Gaucha" (cowboy) country, voices strong support for labour unions.

1989 — US space shuttle Atlantis glides out of orbit into safe landing in California's Mojave Desert after four-day mission.

Ex-king worried about country

Older generation adore Michael

GENEVA, (WNL): Old film footage shows him as a shy boy-king, ill at ease in his stiff military uniform as he receives German officers who have recently invaded his country. The year was 1940 and King Michael of Romania, just 18 years old, was at the start of an eight-year reign that was to end in a forced abdication and a lifetime of exile.

Now, aged 68, the former king dreams of going back to the land he left under such bitter circumstances. He is not alone. Recent events in Eastern Europe have given rise to speculation that monarchies could be restored in Bulgaria, Hungary and Yugoslavia, and maybe one day, even in Albania. Yet King Michael differs from other claimants to the thrones of Central Europe in one very important detail: he is the only one among them to have ruled as king, the last surviving ruler from World War II.

Two parties which have risen from the ashes since the execution of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December — the National Peasants and the Liberals — have appealed to the former king to come back as the ruler in a constitutional monarchy. Reports from inside the country reveal that many of the older generation have dug out yellowing pictures of the king as a young man and pinned them on the walls for the first time in more than four decades of communism.

Probably worried about the political impact that a visit by the former king would have, Romania's government has cancelled his visa and refused him permission to come as a tourist, which he requested this spring.

King Michael is guarded about a possible return. "I've been longing for this moment for more than 40 years, but now I'm waiting for the situation to become more stable," he said in an exclusive interview. "My one wish is to serve my people, and I'll go back when they ask me to. But many of the young people don't even know what a constitutional monarchy is. They only know what they've been taught by the communists — that we were terrible people who sucked the country dry."

King Michael has had to content himself with sending three of his five daughters as emissaries — the eldest, 40-year-old Margaret, the fourth-born, Sophie, 36, and Helen, who recently arrived in Bucharest with an aid convoy from England. Margaret and Sophie have paid two visits since the Ceausescu regime fell. Both have given up their homes and jobs — Margaret worked with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, and Sophie was in the final year of a graphic arts course in Washington, D.C.

Relations

The former king's relations with the interim National Salvation Front government now ruling Romania are less than cordial. He has openly criticised the new leaders for what he describes as "undemocratic behaviour" and declares that the upcoming national elections scheduled for May 20 will be a farce.

"A lot of people fought bravely for their freedom, but nothing has really changed," he said. "They've got rid of Ceausescu but the old communist guard is still in power. They've changed the colour of their coat, nothing more."

Sixty-two parties have registered for the elections, he explained, but most of them are communists with a democratic facade. The others have virtually nothing in the way of resources to run election campaigns — no pencils, no access to the media. "The people are being asked to vote for something they know nothing about," the former king added, commenting on the sometimes confused aspect of the current leadership. "I just don't see how it can work."

Today Michael of Romania lives in a modern villa in a small village 10 minutes away from Geneva. There, he and his wife Anne — descended from the Danish and French royal families — live a lifestyle that is comfortable, but certainly not regal. They have a chef to help them entertain, but no royal



Ex-King Michael of Romania with wife Anne, (WNL)

entourage. Queen Anne often does the shopping herself, and the couple talk frankly about their lack of capital, a factor which could cause problems were they to be recalled to Romania.

"Since I left always had to work for a living," King Michael said. His first experience as an ordinary citizen was in England, two years after his forced abdication in 1948, when he and his wife set up a market garden enterprise, selling vegetables, chickens and eggs. He later moved to Geneva to work as a test pilot for the Lear aviation company. "I also had a small electronics company but the competition got too tough," he said. "At one stage, I even had to try my hand at working on the New York Stock Exchange. It was not exactly my line, but somehow we had to make ends meet."

Life

Life has certainly not been kind to Michael of Romania. At age 6 he became king for the first time, on the death of his grandfather Ferdinand I who refused to entrust the crown to his own son Carol, a dissolute character with a reputation as a heavy drinker and a womanizer. Michael's spell as the young regent lasted three years, until his father ousted him from the throne. When the Germans marched in at the start of World War II King Carol abdicated and left for Paris. His wife divorced him and Michael, then 18, was left to rule as a puppet-king under the Nazis.

In 1944 the Germans left and the Soviet Red army took over. Michael had the unenviable claim of being the only monarch to have served under both Hitler and Stalin. As a paring shot, the Germans blew the royal palace. King Michael and his mother were forewarned and sought refuge in the countryside. Then, in 1948, three years after swallowing Romania into the East bloc, Stalin demanded that the young king abdicate.

"They blackmailed me," he recalled. "They put this paper in front of me and as I went to study it in my office I realised that they had cut the telephone

lines and that artillery soldiers had surrounded the house. They said that if I did not sign, 1,000 young people being held in prison would be executed. I could not take the responsibility."

In the years that followed, during his long exile in Western Europe, King Michael learned to adopt what he calls a dual personality. "To many people inside and outside Romania I have never stopped being their king, and that means you have certain obligations. On the other hand, most of the rest of the world considered me as being the same as anyone else. My life as king was something that was finished, behind me."

Contacts with other European royals are still strong. King Michael is close to Britain's Prince Philip as well as members of the Dutch, Danish, Belgian, Spanish and Norwegian royal families. "All of them wrote and telephoned during the events of last Christmas," he said. Of the European royals in exile, King Michael is closest to Simeon of Bulgaria who lives in Madrid. Victor Emmanuel, exiled heir to the former throne of Italy, is a neighbour. He too lives close to Geneva.

Since the December revolution King Michael has had letters from as far afield as Australia, Japan and India, he says. He has also received dozens of visits from fellow Romanians. "Some of them have been political people, others simply individuals. A lot of them have been young people. They are all very worried that their revolution is being stolen from them. The whole idea was to throw out the system, but that does not mean just getting rid of Ceausescu. He was just the worst of it."

Among reports King Michael claims to have received is one indicating that the sinister Securitate security police has not been disbanded by the interim government. "They have very cleverly moved them around to other towns and villages where their faces are not known," he said. "Large numbers have also been absorbed into the police and the army."

Letters to the editor

Nuclear power

SIR: Since the signing of Pakistan's accord with France last month for the purchase of a 900-megawatt nuclear power plant, there has been a great deal of expressed optimism that this country's future power problems have been resolved. Indeed, the administration in Islamabad has considered the purchase accord as a diplomatic victory in a long-standing Pakistani attempt to obtain nuclear power sources. Considering that, in the past, Pakistan's legitimate interests to seek nuclear power have been subjected to the West's excessive hostility, especially that of the US, this accord certainly marks the end of a long battle against the power giant of the global politics, making Pakistan has a reason to celebrate; nevertheless, it is also an opportune moment to initiate a national debate on the use of nuclear power and to seek diverse opinions on nuclear power efficacy.

The most important benefit of this debate could be a vivid delineation of the pros and cons of the use of nuclear power so that the public could have a complete picture of what their country is getting into.

Alternative

The hydroelectric facilities in Pakistan are operating on the principle of diminishing return; the age factor in the water-powered dams is the most important element to be considered now. In less than two decades the present dams will be out of commission; Pakistan must build new hydroelectric dams or find alternative power sources. Urgency is imperative.

Nuclear power is an available alternative option. It is clean, and nuclear power technology is claimed to be efficient, cheap, expandable, and relatively quicker to produce than the construction of new hydroelectric dams. It is also claimed to be cost-effective. Nuclear power facilities have also been claimed to be safer and more reliable than hydroelectric power sources.

It has also been said that nuclear power usage will bring Pakistan within the fold of technologically advanced nations.

On the other side of the spectrum, the environmentalists are not convinced. Their major concern is with environmental safety and the possible catastrophic impacts of nuclear power usage.

They have pointed to a major nuclear accident at Chernobyl power station in the Soviet Union and to hundreds of unreported minor accidents in the United States.

The record is contrary to all claims made. Nuclear power reliability, cost-effectiveness, efficacy and rapid expandability are all strongly disagreed with. Non-nuclear advocates in Pakistan also contend that the import of such high technology makes the country still further dependent on the West, a political development contrary to the national self-interests of Pakistan, expanding the nature of neo-imperialist designs in Pakistan and the Third World.

Concerns

In addition, there are some specific concerns about the use of nuclear power technology in Pakistan. Several Pakistani engineers, specifically Ehsan Karim based in Kuwait, have raised the following issue. What would happen if the nuclear power facility breaks down? They contend that if a 900-megawatt power station goes off the grid for any number of reasons it would plunge the country into a power blackout for

"ECHOES OF THE '80s" FEDERAL PRISON



days with unprecedented economic and political lash-backs. It seems that the concerned engineers are familiar with the backup systems of a nuclear power plant but are less than convinced with the claimed efficacy of these backup systems. They consider a possibility in which the breakdown could be complete and would result in the total shut-down of the nuclear power facility. Their question is: is it worthwhile compared to other possible options?

Perhaps the most serious concern in respect to the use of nuclear power is what has come to be known as the "China Syndrome". This refers to the ultimate possible catastrophic in case a nuclear accident takes place. It is a complex scenario.

Put in a simplistic manner, it describes a massive nuclear radioactive explosion resulting from the meltdown of the core of the nuclear reactor. This could happen because of various malfunctions or because of human error. In such an event, the catastrophic impact of such a scenario would be equal to several massive nuclear explosions. An accident of this nature at the proposed nuclear power plant would render an area of the size of Punjab uninhabitable for an indefinite period of time. It would be followed by generations of human physical deformities and sickness from cancer. Pakistan would be a devastated land.

There is another related problem. A 900-megawatt

nuclear power station can provide electricity to a city of nearly one million consumers. As a result, Pakistan would have to construct several nuclear power facilities to meet all of its industrial and consumer demands. The question is: Would it be advisable to pile up such massive nuclear explosive force? What would happen to the nuclear radioactive waste? What nuclear waste disposal facilities would be available? What province in Pakistan would accept the nuclear waste?

Environmentalists have also asked the vital question, "What about solar energy or further sophistication of hydroelectric technology?"

For Pakistan, the fundamental issue is the urgency. Can Pakistan wait? Can it develop other indigenous electric resources?

Dr Haider Mehdi,
Shawwalik.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

China fear People quit Hong Kong in numbers

HONGKONG, (Reuters): In a dimly-lit Hong Kong nightclub, hostess Amy drops her usual seductive line of chat and earnestly explains why she needs money to go to the United States.

Outside the US consulate on Hong Kong, hundreds queue daily for visas no matter what the weather. The Canadian, New Zealand and Australian consulates too are steadily processing mountains of applications.

The people of Hong Kong, who for years made their accommodation with China through good times and bad, are increasingly preoccupied with their future, and the best ways of getting out, when Beijing resumes sovereignty over this British colony in 1997.

Last year 42,000 people emigrated, and this year 56,000 are expected to go.

Agreements

Nobody will actually paint a picture of Chinese tanks rolling down Kowloon's bustling commercial Nathan Road. But graphic media reports of Beijing's brutal suppression of the student-led democracy movement last June were enough to persuade many not to put their faith in international agreements.

In a busy Kowloon restaurant, businessman Paul Wong, who has extensive manufacturing investments in China and other parts of Asia, has just announced he has his emigration papers for Canada.

"Sure, it may never happen, and I don't suppose it will," he says, referring to the June crackdown.

"But Beijing officials have made it quite clear they will run things their way in post 1997 Hong Kong," he adds.

"They've also made it quite clear as far as I am concerned that they don't want people like me here. Hong Kong's my home but if I can still maintain my business interests but have the family elsewhere, then that's it."

Fun

For Amy, a four-year veteran of Hong Kong's busy nightclub scene, the choice is just as stark. "I used to work in a place where the Beijing officials working in their Hong Kong companies used to go all the time to have fun. Now they don't. The old men in China don't like people like me."

"My friends and I all want to leave. I am saving my money for the United States. Right now I have a good time in Hong Kong, but I don't know what I can have a good time after 1997. I've said before I was going to go to the States but I haven't done it yet."

There are those who want to stay, despite the uncertain future. "I don't want to go," said William, a teacher, said he and his family had decided to stay no matter what happened.

"Of course it's not going to be like Saigon during the Vietnam war or even Saigon in 1975. We are all Chinese, after all. My home is here. My children have their friends here, and what can I do in the United States?"

"I don't really want to go somewhere and just live in a Chinese community. I'm not a political activist, so I don't foresee any problems. After all, this is a British colony and we are not British. We should be happy to be reunited with our motherland," he added.

Hopes

One factor stands out in conversations with Hong Kong residents on 1997 — few, if any, pin their hopes on getting any help from Britain, the colonial power for the past 148 years.

"A bill now going through the British Parliament would authorise full British passports for key personnel in the public and private sectors, but the plan has done little to restore confidence shattered by the Beijing crackdown."

"If Britain had wanted to do anything it should never have changed the rules so that Hong Kong British passport holders were barred the right of automatic entry and abode (in Britain) back in 1962," said a Hong Kong Chinese journalist.

To start making a somewhat belated stand by offering passports to 30,000 select people, their families is just crazy. Whoever dreams that one up doesn't understand the Chinese psyche."

"It's like a red rag to a bull, and has the singular merit of simply adding to feelings of division between the general public here and the privileged few involved in running the place," he added.

US-Japan trade pacts shift focus

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): After a hectic month hammering out trade pacts, the United States and Japan look set to shift their focus for forging a common front in the international arena.

"We're shifting gears," US Trade Representative Carla Hills said in a televised interview last weekend. "Instead of continuing confrontation, we want to build on co-operation."

She said that co-operation was important to achieve "a fantastic result" in the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations due to wind up by the end of the year.

US and Japanese officials say they are not so starry-eyed as to believe the trade disputes will disappear, particularly as long as the trade gap between the two remains so large. But they hope that the recent string of successful negotiations will help take the heat off trade and let them concentrate more on international issues on mutual concern.

The United States said last week it wanted to enlist the support of Japan and Europe to form a group to help Caribbean and Central American nations. "We want to talk to the government of Japan about it," US Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson said at a news conference.

Involve

Secretary of State James Baker has made no secret of his desire to try to involve Japan more deeply in international diplomacy. But that was not possible while the two countries were haggling over trade and Japan faced possible retaliatory action from the United States.

The Bush administration paved the way for greater co-operation between the two nations by deciding last week not to single out Japan as an unfair trader. It risked criticism from Congress because it felt, in the words of one official, that "protectionism has passed its peak" on Capital Hill.

Tokyo has long sought a "global partnership" between the world's two richest countries, but Washington has been less enthusiastic, fearful that would divert attention from the yawning bilateral trade gap.

"They (Japan) would like to be more involved," said a senior US official, who declined to be identified. "They worry about being left out."

Those worries have become more acute since last year's epoch-making events in Eastern Europe polycrises.

The senior US officials said that some fundamental changes may be needed in the way two countries talk to each other in order to broaden their discussions.

AN ARAB TIMES SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Freight & Transportation

Customs Department

Ensuring maximum security over Kuwait's imports

OIL exports aside, Kuwait has long been a country-reliant on imports. Imports for which, in 1986 the country spent an estimated 1,661 million KD on foreign trade. Even when the country's economy was based on pearl diving and trade, the crucial wood that was used to construct the sanbous and dhows was imported from India and the east coast of Africa. There was little choice. Trees have never been a leading natural resource in Kuwait.

It was during this era, close to one hundred years ago, that the concept of customs, as we know it today, came into existence in Kuwait. According to Mr Ibrahim Al Ghanim, Director-General at the Customs Department at the Ministry of Communications, in those days customs comprised of little more than one or two rough hewn structures located on the shores of the Arabian Gulf. All trading took place via well-established sea routes.

Naturally, as the economy has flourished and population increased, so has the role of the Customs Department continued to progress and expand. Today it stands as a highly complex, vast operation with more than three thousand employees, 75 per cent of whom are Kuwaiti nationals. From foodstuffs to personal effects, construction materials to oil-field equipment, virtually all imported goods must be scrupulously documented and checked by customs officials at the point of entry into the country.

Al Ghanim explains that these points of entry include the obvious airport, as well as all sea ports and borders that separate the nation from the neighbouring countries of Saudi Arabia and Iraq. In short, any means of transport, whether arriving in



Imported fruit examined at airport cargo department.

Kuwait or departing to any other country may not load, or discharge any cargo in places other than the customs posts or zones officially prepared for such purpose.

The paperwork involved is prodigious. All importers must submit to the customs department an original invoice, certificate of origin, import licence, packing list, bill of lading and purchase order. This is then carefully checked against the goods themselves to ensure that

there has been no breach of law by any parties concerned. The customs duty to Kuwait represents a ratio of 4 per cent of the value of the imported goods, established either in the country of origin or source, plus the relevant freight and other charges clarified at the time by the Customs Department.

Naturally, certain items such as personal and used goods, like tobacco, perfumes, cameras, radios typewriters etc (not for

resale or commercial use) are allowed custom free entry into Kuwait, as well as any goods imported for charitable purposes. Al Ghanim explains that the import of arms and ammunition, explosives, narcotic drugs and ethyl alcohol are subject to import licence and strict control. Second hand diesel motor vehicles, wheat and flour, fireworks, asbestos and welded iron pipes are prohibited basically to protect the local industries.

Director-General, Ibrahim Al Ghanim worked for many years as Director of Customs Administration. A graduate from Kuwait University, he explains that the customs network is computerised throughout the country. This facilitates an immediate link-up with custom posts, as well as maintaining a continuous computerised record of import trade activity.

The Customs Draft Law that was issued in 1969, constituted the basic regulations concerning customs affairs in Kuwait. Although this document has remained essentially the same there have naturally been several amendments as Kuwait has rapidly evolved as a major commercial and industrial trading point. New regulations concerning transit goods, interim entry and storage regulations have been made, as well as determining reimbursement fees for charges already paid in case of re-export. For example, after a lapse of several years, Iraq has once emerged as a major re-export market, and it is thus the responsibility of the Customs Department to impose exacting regulations related to this issue.

"We have implemented an Article which clarifies the question," comments Al Ghanim. "This states that any duties earlier collected shall be refunded to the concerned in the event of re-export of any goods or machinery for which such duties were paid. Naturally, there are certain conditions; one of the most important being that the goods meant for re-export should be dispatched within a period of three months from the date of first arrival. Also, the goods for re-export must be originally from one consignment, imported with duty paid under one customs declaration.



Ibrahim Al Ghanim, director-general at the Customs Department.

"The re-export goods should also exceed KD3,000 in value..." he adds.

We asked the Director-General to explain what happened if cargo was damaged during transit to Kuwait. Would the owner still have to pay custom duties in full?

"No, as long as the damage is recognised as being caused in transit, the relevant value of the goods shall be reduced accordingly."

Although smuggling crimes are not prevalent in Kuwait, they naturally take place upon occasion. According to Al Ghanim, any of the following may be deemed smuggling and punishable by up to three years imprisonment, together with a fine not less than KD100, but not exceeding KD10,000 a customs fine up to three times the relevant duties may also be imposed together with obvious confiscation of the smuggled goods (or a penalty equal to its value).

● Failure to abide by the proper channels upon entering the country.

● Loading and unloading goods aboard vessels in a manner contravening the applicable regulations.

● Transporting and possession



Customs at Kuwait International Airport.

of banned goods, save when legal proof is presented.

● Submission of forged or artificial documents or invoices or maulmarking the relevant goods and commodities.

● "Concealing a trade-mark which is banned is also considered an act of smuggling," explains the Director-General, clearly referring to the fact that all goods originating in the countries of Israel or South Africa are forbidden in Kuwait.

In his role as Director-General, Ibrahim Al Ghanim has the awesome responsibility of over-

seeing all customs posts and their administration in Kuwait, as well as maintaining current statistics in co-ordination with the Public Affairs Department. As the country's population and industry expand, the importation of raw materials and bulk cargo concurrently increases. Ensuring the maximum efficiency at the customs stage is thus of vital importance. It is gratifying to learn first-hand that this is a situation well and truly under control at the Ministry of Communication's Department of Customs.

Courtesy: Kuwait Digest

Modern ports handle Kuwait's booming trade

Petroleum Industries Company. In 1975 the Shuaiba Area Authority built two additional berths to provide for the increasing volume of exports by way of the pier, increasing the total to the present four berths which can accommodate tankers with a draft of up to 13.7m.

Maximum size of tankers using the petroleum-products piers is 100,000gri at two of the berths and 45,000gri on the remaining berths.

Since 1967, Shuaiba Port has comprised five dry-cargo berths, connected with a three-berth barge harbour capable of accommodating craft with a draft of up to 4m. Following a study commissioned by the Port Authority and relevant State authorities to predict the future volume of traffic, a programme of expansion was planned to meet the requirements of both the state

and industrial sector.

The developments were in two phases: the first stage of expansion, completed by late 1979, comprised 10 berths each approximately 14m deep; with the second phase completed in 1981, a further five 14m-deep berths were added, together with another barge harbour consisting of four 6m-deep berths. As a result, there are now 20 berths and two barge harbours for dry-cargo and container handling.

Shuaiba Port is today comparable with the world's most advanced ports, combining a modern harbour with maritime transport equipment catering for all types of vessels. This includes a conveyor belt for carrying chemical fertiliser from the Petrochemical Industries Company plants to ships in berths 1 and 2 for export. A further conveyor belt transports sulphur produced by the Kuwait National Petroleum Company from the storage area to berth 6, and a third belt is currently being installed.

The port incorporates a floating, link-span bridge for ro-ro ships, and provides a number of specialised workshops for the maintenance and repair of marine and onshore equipment. Various vessels for towing, piloting, fire-fighting and marine anti-pollution operations are also available.

The container terminal, which commenced operations in May 1982, has a total area of 450,000m² and consists of four berths. This terminal is equipped with modern cranes and specialised container-handling equipment, including four gantry cranes, 18 straddle-carriers and 12 heavy forklifts.

Focus on Shuwaikh Port

Kuwait – vital link from ancient times

KUWAIT'S important strategic position enabled it to play an important trade role in the areas from ancient times.

It is located in the north-eastern part of Arabian peninsula. It is bordered by Iraq to the north and west Saudi Arabia to the south, and the Arabian Gulf to the East. The area of Kuwait is 20,150 sq.km, which equals 0.5 per cent of the Gulf Arab area.

There are 1,910,856 million inhabitants which form 6.3 per cent of the Arabian Gulf inhabitants.

Kuwait has the following ports on the Arabian Gulf: Mina Abdullah, Ahmadi, Saoud, Shuaiba and Shuwaikh.

The trade movement in Kuwait increased tremendously with the increase of the important trade following the discovery of oil in commercial quantities which resulted in a vast increase in demand of imported goods owing to the inability of the local economic sectors to provide the necessary goods to meet the increasing buying power of individuals with large incomes.

With the growth of national income and the accompanying construction movement the people of Kuwait began to consider the construction of docks to enable ships to load and unload their cargoes. Port business until 1953 was in the hands of private com-



Shuwaikh Port entrance.

panies but the government turned it since then into the public authority.

The expansion of construction and economic plans in the country resulted in a great increase of the responsibilities of the ports

authority which required them to meet the demands of this expansion with a parallel expansion of ports being the major inlets through which trade entered the country. To run the ports smoothly and effectively in

accordance with modern standards, it was necessary to set up an independent authority to manage, supervise and control the ports.

Continued on Page 12

وكالات الراشد للملاحة ذ.م.م

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Focus on Shuwaikh Port

Continued from Page 11

With this decree the responsibility for the management and operation of this port was shifted from the hands of Shuwaikh Area Authority to the hands of Ports Public Authority.

Ports Public Authority

Since the issuance of Law No. 133 in 1977, the authority has undertaken the management and operation of Shuwaikh and Doha Ports and in 1986 the authority was entrusted with the management and operation of the authority became: Shuwaikh Port, Shuwaikh Port and Doha Port.

In pursuance of this goal, Law No. 133 was issued on 6 Zu Al Hijra 1379 corresponding to Nov 16, 1977 for the establishment of the Ports Public Authority with an independent legal personality attached to the Ministry of Communications at the time. It was decided that the ports be run on commercial basis and that the authority should run the ports set apart for commercial navigation including small and large ships as well as passenger and fishing vessels. Some of the objectives are:

1. The building of dry and floating docks, and the building or appropriation or renting of the facilities required for this purpose.

2. The purchase or rent of the

equipment required for land and marine services related to the port's business.

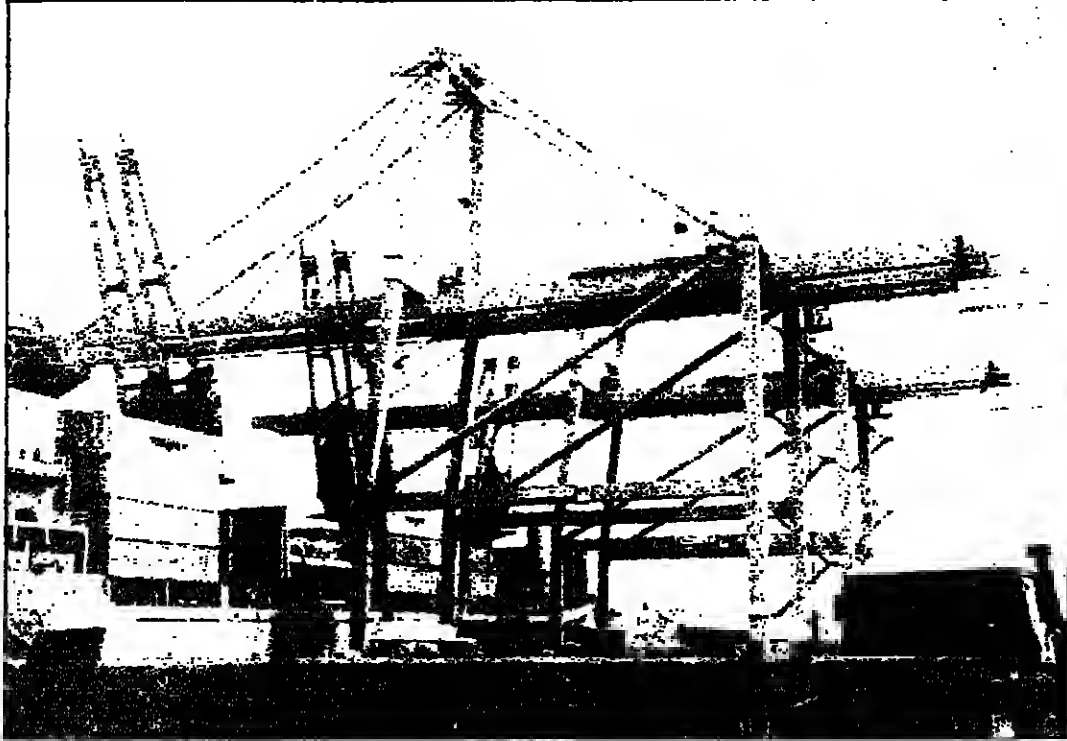
3. The construction, appropriation or rent of the facilities and buildings required for its administrative and technical staff and for storage purposes.

4. The drawing of contracts with institutions, companies or local or foreign contractors to undertake the business entrusted to the authority.

5. Benefiting from technical and consultative experiences for the development of its executive organs, improvement of its services, organisation of its facilities and raising and promoting the capabilities of national workforce in all marine services and sectors.

The government decided not to entrust to this authority the management and control of all Kuwaiti seaports at once, but to do it step by step and after fulfilling its duties in one port be entrusted with the management and control of another.

The 1977 law, therefore, required the authority to manage and operate Shuwaikh and Doha Ports first, and in Safar 14, 1407 Hijra corresponding to AD October 18, 1986, an Amiri Decree was issued entrusting the authority to manage and operate Shuwaikh Port in compliance.



This article concentrate of Shuwaikh Port.

Shuwaikh Port is the largest commercial port in Kuwait and is equipped to receive both small and big vessels. Shuwaikh Port stands on latitude 29 degrees 23 minutes and 27 seconds north and longitude 47 degrees and 51 minutes — second east — the area of its basin is 1.2 million square metres and the area of its

land is 3.2 million square metres. Stages of construction of Shuwaikh Port:

The port in 1959 consisted of one dock only where one third of Kuwait imports were unloaded. The following enlargements of the port took place starting from 1960:

The construction of the main dock: The main dock consists of the present berths, berths No. 2, 3, 4 and 5 with a length of 180 metres and a depth of 10 metres under the low tide. Maximum load on the dock is 3 tons per square metre.

During this stage floating docks were constructed where two ships with a draft of 8.5 metres and a length of 200 metres can berth. With the completion of this dock in 1964 the operational capacity of the port was about 1.3 million tons per year and 95 per cent of Kuwait imports could be unloaded.

The eastern enlargement of the main dock: This enlargement included the establishment of the present berth number (1) along the eastern side of the main dock. A shipyard was built behind the said berth of shelter the two boats and pilot vessels.

This enlargement was completed in 1968 and included the development handling and storage services in the port.

The western expansion: Enlargement also includes the construction of 9 new berths (the present ones beginning from the

berth No. 6 to berth No. 14 with a depth of 10 metres below the British admiralty water level and a total length of 1,738 metres with a permissible maximum load of 3 tons per metre. The enlargement included as well the construction of four other berths numbers 18, 19, 20 and 21 with a depth of 8.5 metres below the British admiralty water level, and with a total length 789 metres and maximum permissible load of 3 tons per metre.

During the enlargement a new shipyard for a small vessel consisting of 3 berths numbers 15, 16 and 17 was built. The total length of these berths is 525 metres a depth of 6 metres. The shipyard also included another 5 small berths used for the landing of vessels with small cargoes, as well as the authority's support marine units. The total weight allowable on these berths is 1.5 tons per square metre.

In addition to the above an area was provided on which the Kuwait Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company was established later on.

Additional storehouses for the storage of goods were built as well as a storehouse for frozen goods, a cattle shed and a silo for bulk cement, a container station was built on the island of Umm Alnami minor which was linked to the port by a 1,400 metre sand pathway. Later on the island was integrated with the port's north-western enlargement.

It is one of the ironies of life that honours bestowed usually come too late. It is pleasing, of course, to be recognised, but often by the time the president of the Chamber of Shipping received his knighthood — as was once the British habit — he was on his way to retirement. The years in which he would be addressed as 'Sir Toby' were limited, and most of them would be spent on some country estate, well away from the places in which he had once been known as plain 'Mr Belch'.

It has proved to be much the same with no less an institution than the Merchant Navy. For hundreds of years merchant ships were indeed the navy. In Britain, as elsewhere, the monarch commanded them whenever he was in trouble. King Alfred is reputed to have been the

Redundant honours

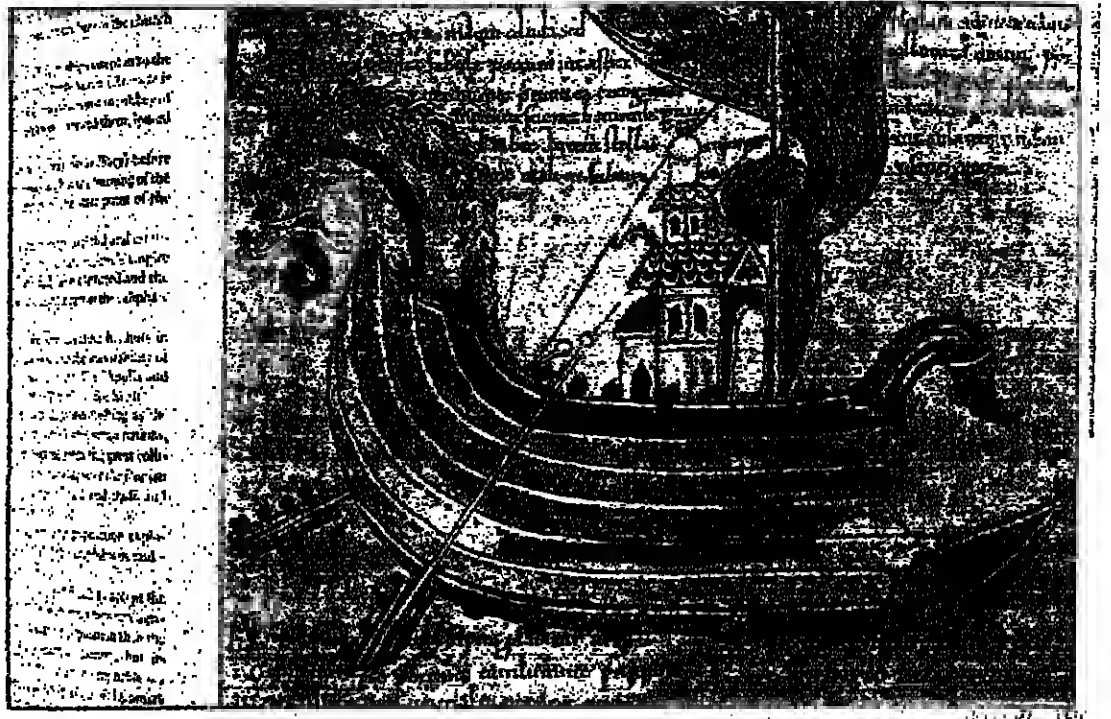
first British monarch to build ships of his own to ward off, in his case, the warlike Danes, and not until the time of King Henry VIII could Britain claim to have anything like a Royal Navy.

That, of course, was not the end of merchant shipping's participation in war. For every war that came along merchant ships continued to be taken over, and merchant seamen played a prominent role in wartime activities, often at the instigation of the press gang. Thus it was in Britain's seventeenth-century wars against the Dutch, in the eighteenth century wars against the Americans, Spaniards and French, in the nineteenth-century wars against the French and

Russians, and in the twentieth-century wars against the Germans and Japanese.

As soon as World War I broke out most of the finest merchant ships were turned into armed merchant cruisers. In World War II a Ministry of War Transport took charge of virtually all merchant shipping. The *Athenia* was the war's first casualty, and the *Ramapo* and the *Jervis Bay* won immortality of a kind when they were sunk by German battleships. Even for the Falklands conflict 33 merchant shipping companies provided 54 ships which were taken up from trade, or STUFT, as the Civil Service acronym had it.

Ronald Hope.



Nautical names, watery words

"NAE man can tether time or tide," sang Burns, a fraction obviously perhaps. But did he know he was repeating himself? For if you look back a dozen centuries or so you find that the two words are the same.

The Anglo-Saxons, who started as all speaking English in the first place, had two words for time, "tid" and "tima". Gradually "tid" became associated with the moon and then with the tides, while "tima" developed into "time".

But the German for time (and

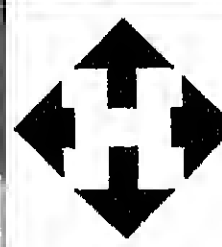
English is a Germanic language at heart) is "Zeit," related to our "tide," not "time". Dutch too being a Germanic tongue uses a similar term "tijd".

We, the Germans and the Dutch have almost the same word for sea ("see," "zee"). The French, Spanish and Italians sensibly use a word related to their terms for sea ("mer," "mar," "mare") to mean tide — "marée," "marea," "marea," and even the Russians, surprise, surprise, have a word like this for sea. We couldn't let it out, and we borrowed back words

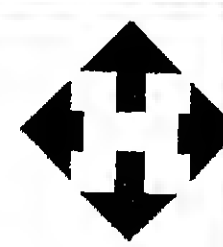
like "marine," "marloer," "maritime" and even "marinade," which originally meant pickled in brine. Hence also that delicious creature the meringue.

English developed terms like neap tide early on, but others use dancier phrases like the French "marée de morte eau" — tide of dead water — or even, like German, imitate the sound of the English as in "Nippflut" ("Flut" meaning tide of course but related to our "flood").

Mary Alderton




EL-HOSS



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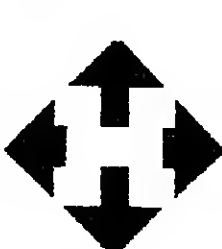


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El-Hoss Engineering and Transport



Pioneers in the field

SINCE the inception of El-Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. in 1974 within the old walls of the city until today, El-Hoss have been pioneers in the transportation and engineering field, a spirit within the company which still exists today.

Nowadays the company operates from the industrial area of Ahmadi some 40 kms south of the modern city of Kuwait in an area of some 50,000 sq metres containing offices, workshops, stores etc. employing more than 500 people and operating in excess of 150 trucks and trailers with capacities able to accommodate any transportable item from 1 ton to 800 tons.

In addition to operating the transportation fleet, the company recognised in the very early days the needs of its clients and expanded its operation to cover the services associated with transportation. To this end El-Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. provides fully integrated service to its customers which commences from receiving the cargo at the port, customs clearance, documentation, transport and delivery to site and if required installation and/or erection.

In order to provide this service the company owns and operates a fleet of cranes from 20T to 400 ton capacity together with other associated support equipment required to undertake and fulfil the customers' needs. In association with international lifting contractors El-Hoss Engineering and Transport is able to provide craneage upto 3,000 ton capacity or a very specialist jacking system which can accommodate virtually any lift to any height. Included in this service is the ability to undertake the very specialist engineering detailed design and provide the professional engineers and manpower to undertake the safe transportation, delivery and erection on a turnkey basis.

Over the past 43 years El-Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. has successfully undertaken many major projects, many under very arduous conditions with both international and Gulf-based contractors including gas, petrochemical, refineries, power plants, port facilities, desalination plants, concrete elements for road pedestrian buildings and




pipelines to mention but a few.

The transportation and lifting of heavy vessels or transformers is highly complex and calls for the most careful planning. Many different factors have to be considered and precise calculations made before the transportation and lifting operation is carried out.

Firstly a comprehensive road survey must be undertaken and a suitable route from the port of arrival to job site not only discovered but all the necessary information computed and the eventual route agreed with the concerned authorities. Then there are the physical characteristics of the structure itself — its height, dimension and shape. But almost equally important is an expert appraisal of the conditions on site, the state of the ground, the location of nearby buildings and plant etc. Even the weather conditions have to be taken into account.

This calls for professionalism of the highest degree by the team of transportation and rigging engineers and technicians who have access to the very latest computer aided design techniques to plan the operation down to the last detail.

If the job is especially complex, our engineers may well design and manufacture specific equipment to carry out the safe transportation and erection.

In certain circumstances our clients may wish to use their own response to carry out any part of a job in which event he can draw upon our specialist expertise as an additional safeguard. The consultancy and supervision services of El-Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. are available throughout the Gulf region.

Since 1984, El-Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. have been contracted to operate and maintain a vast number of special trucks and cranes owned by Kuwait Oil Company together with other support items providing a 24-hour, 365 days per year service.

The company also has a contract currently ongoing to provide transportation, craneage and ancillary equipment to Kuwait National Petroleum Co. at their Mina Ahmadi Refinery.

From the early days of containerisation of cargo, El-Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. has been involved with their transportation and in the early '80s set up a maintenance and repair workshop in the Shuwaiba area to serve the needs of this fast growing industry. This workshop facility is located close to Shuwaiba port and comprises of 10,000 sq m — 30 per cent of

which is dedicated to office, workshop and stores which is capable of undertaking all types of maintenance and repair not only traditional containers but also very specialist refrigerated units used today for the importation into the Gulf of all sorts of food from all over the world.

Today, there is a constantly growing export business from Kuwait to particular prawns are shipped by U.F.K. and El-Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. play a vital role in ensuring the prosperity and expansion of this business by investing in very special transport equipment equipped with generators which ensures the cargo is safely transported in its frozen state from the various U.F.K. factories to the port of shipment for export. This operation together with the general movement of containerised cargo is carried out on behalf of many shipping agents in Kuwait.

El-Hoss Engineering and Transport Co. are agents for Cooper Energy Services of the USA and UK who manufacture integrated gas compression equipment for the oil industry plus diesel and gas engines for driving generators, pumps, gas turbines, many units have been supplied and installed by El-Hoss to the gas and oil industry not only in Kuwait but throughout the Gulf. A comprehensive spare parts supply and service, advice operation is maintained on a day to day basis with the respective operators.

In addition to the Cooper agency, El-Hoss are the local agent for Kenworth trucks manufactured by Paccar International in the USA.

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2) Using over 500 international flights per week, both with scheduled carriers and dedicated IML flights, IML ensures the earliest possible connecting flights for the quick despatch.

3) The year 1989 was a very significant one, with United Parcel Service (UPS) of USA taking over IML thus combining two most efficient air couriers with services worldwide. Today IML/UPS is one of the three largest international courier networks in the world.

4) Handling over an important parcel or document is more than a matter of business. It's a matter of trust.

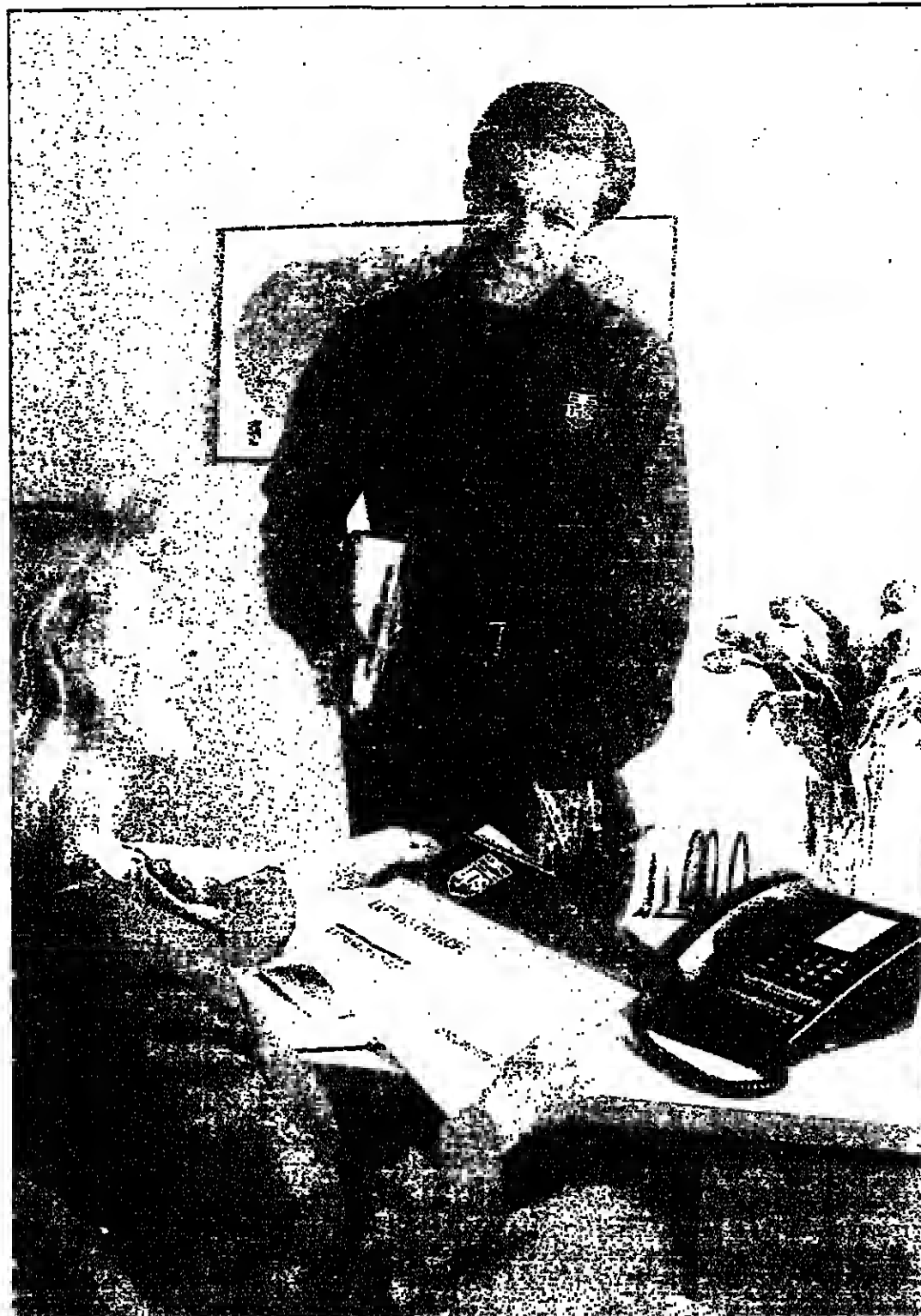
5) IML/UPS will safely and swiftly deliver your vital international shipments to over 175 countries and territories worldwide.

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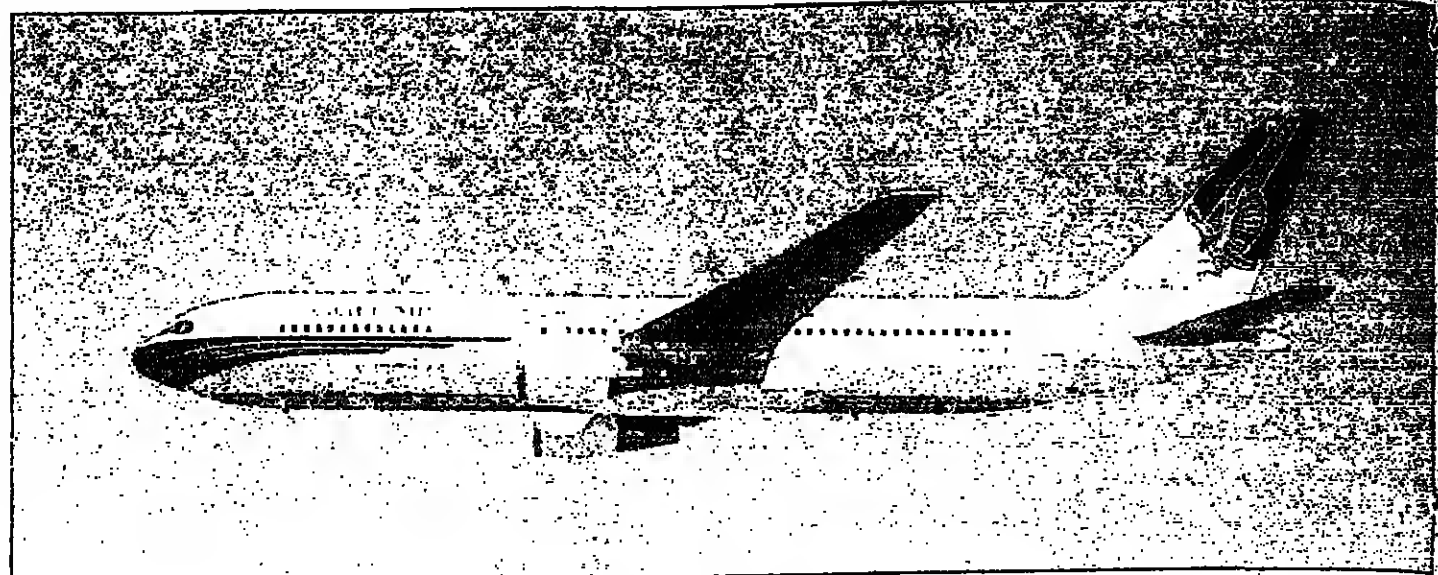
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Gulf Air

Dramatic growth in freight traffic

FOR several years Gulf Air (GF) has operated at near capacity levels for freight and mail.

Now GF is poised for dramatic growth in freight traffic. On 21st June 1989 the sixth new 767-300 joined the fleet.

In the second half of 1990 three more 767s will be added.

So by the end of 1990 GF will be operating nine Boeing 767 and 8 L1011-200 trisars.

Each of 767 offers GF 40 per cent more freight capacity than a Tristar.

This is because the galleys in GF's Trisars are located in the lower lobe, whereas in the 767 they are situated in the main cabin, creating the additional capacity in the belly for freight and mail.

The effect of this added capacity will enable Gulf Air to generate 70 per cent more freight and mail tonne-kilometres in 1991 than it did in 1988.

How does Gulf Air plan to exploit this very large increase in cargo capacity?

By 1991 a significant improvement is expected in the economies of the Gulf and Middle East region, Iran and Iraq and possibly Lebanon will have embarked upon reconstruction.

With its dense network of regional services, Gulf Air is well placed to transfer to all major destinations in the region the traffic fed into its Gulf hubs from the international trunk routes. By 1991 a far greater proportion

of these regional services will be operated with pallet and container-carrying aircraft, allowing for rapid transfer of utilised cargo loads from one aircraft to another.

The Gulf countries are becoming exporters. Textiles, fruits and vegetables, seafood are beginning to supplement the traditional outflow of personal effects and repairables.

The area of greatest expansion will be the Asia-Pacific Rim. The addition of Singapore, Sydney, Perth, and possibly Tokyo, Taipei and Seoul to Gulf Air's network, will introduce important new sources of freight generation.

From the Asian sub-continent, the Orient and Australia a greatly increased volume of traffic will flow, not only to the Gulf and the Middle East region, but also beyond the Gulf to Europe and the eastern seaboard of the USA.

In the reverse direction Gulf Air anticipates no difficulty in filling all its available capacity from Europe to the Gulf. Much of the reconstruction of the war-torn infrastructures of the Middle East will be serviced from Europe and North America.

Gulf Air has not yet begun to exploit the very large airfreight market from USA and Canada to the Gulf and Middle East. Favourable transatlantic interline agreements have now been concluded to allow this activity to begin. There will also

be increased attention paid to the sizeable volume of airfreight from Europe to the Asian Sub-Continent.

In order to service this very large increase in cargo traffic Gulf Air will computerise its reservations and handling procedures.

It is not enough to computerise advanced booking facilities. Tracking shipments enroute is of equal importance to the shipper and the airline. To provide this service Gulf Air has to enlist the co-operation of its various ground handling agents at each of the locations it serves. It has to provide a system which will best interface with the handling agent's activities for other airlines.

After a prolonged study Gulf Air has joined the SITA Shared Cargo System, chosen as the System in most common use by the majority of airlines serviced by our handling agents. Our station in Bahrain is fully operational in the System. During 1990 London, Bombay and other major Gulf Air hubs will be added progressively.

An important development in the international airfreight scene is the explosive growth of express document and small package services.

It must be realised that this powerful new segment of the industry has only prospered because it satisfied a public need for speedy, personalised service, which the airlines and general

airfreight companies, with their single-minded dedication to volume growth, were progressively failing to meet.

The airlines correctly saw the growth of the courier business as a threat to their high-yield small consignments. Many of them sought to counter the threat by setting up their own express operations. But the surface distribution, segment of a door-to-door, desk-to-desk operation is capital-and-labour-intensive and a wholly different area of expertise. In general the airlines have met with indifferent success in their express operations, and have not succeeded in seriously challenging the big professional courier companies.

Gulf Air thought long and hard about setting up its own express operation, but concluded that the franchising of different agencies at each of the locations in its network, to perform the surface distribution, posed serious problems of quality control and liability. Instead we have elected to pursue a policy of positive co-operation with the professional express companies, concentrating on providing premium service in our own traditional area of expertise, that of transportation from airport to airport. For quality service in this field we find that we can still command premium rates and an appropriate share of the revenue generated by this new branch of the airfreight industry.

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KUWAIT'S location being the northernmost port at the head of the Gulf makes Kuwait an ideal entrepot.

Kuwait has a natural harbour safe for navigation in all seasons and remains unaffected by cyclonic weather prevailing in the Arabian Sea.

The two commercial ports Shuaiba and Shuaiba are well equipped to cope with all types of vessels from small coastal vessels to sophisticated ro-ro and container ships, reefer vessels and passenger bulkers. A large variety of cargo passes through the ports of Kuwait daily. Commercial and project cargo for Kuwait as well as cargo in transit to Iraq and other neighbouring states are

Market will remain static

discharged and loaded via Kuwait ports and move in bulk, breakbulk and containers.

The shipping industry provides employment for many people. Kuwaitis and expatriates work side by side in this field, and communities from all walks of life depend on the industry.

Foodstuffs to cater to all taste Arabians, European, Indian, Japanese, Filipino, Korean are easily available in the market, so are shoes and clothes from fashion shops around the world. Furniture and luxury items, cars and buses, livestock and grain are all brought to Kuwait by sea.

Willine, Blue Star Line and Seaload, specialised container carriers of both reefer and dry cargo play a major role in carrying cargo to Kuwait from Far East, Australia and New Zealand, Europe and USA. These lines have been trading with Kuwait for decades and are well-known in the Kuwait market for their reliability and prompt services.

We, Alghanim Barwill Shipping Co. as a Ship Agency House, through our liner principals as mentioned above, and through our tramp operators who have medium and Panama

sized bulkers, special heavy lift vessels, livestock carriers, cater to the requirements of all importers and exporters in Kuwait. We also meet demands of intransit cargo movements to/from various destinations and offer full cargo concept to the shipping industry.

The shipping industry was affected during the Iran-Iraq war, however, since the ceasefire there has been an increase of about 20 per cent in the trade in general. Although the future may not come back to the boom days of the seventies, we feel the market will remain static. Iraq-



Jarl M. Kristensen
bound cargo is moving via Kuwait, however, there could be a decrease in intransit traffic by the end of 1990 when Iraq increases the draft of their ports to accept larger vessels.

Shipyard diversification proved key to survival

KUWAIT Shipbuilding and Repair Company (KSRC), based at Safat in Kuwait City, claims to be the most experienced shipyard in the Gulf. Operations commenced as recently as 15 years ago, in 1974 — a short history of shipbuilding and shiprepair in this comparatively newly industrialised region.

KSRC is the result of a joint venture project planned and realised by the German shipyard Blohm and Voss, working in conjunction with Associated Marine Consultants of Holland.

● fully equipped workshops and service facilities.

With the highly volatile conflict in the Iran/Iraq war zone, high insurance premiums payable on ships travelling within the area resulted in KSRC paying the penalty for its location. It was almost impossible to attract new business from shippers needing repair work to be carried out in Kuwait.

Another venture took KSRC into the water and electricity industries. The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) awarded it a major contract to maintain the Doha power station. Having won the confidence of the MEW, further contracts include the maintenance of a major water-desalination plant in Kuwait.

'A ship is a floating industrial unit'

"We examined our capabilities and facilities very carefully," says Mousa Jafar Marafat, managing director of KSRC. "A ship is like a floating industrial unit — it has a power station, a steam generator, pumps and advanced electronic equipment. We decided that, since we could repair a seagoing industrial unit, there was every reason to believe we could carry out similar servicing and repair work successfully on land."

Three years have passed since KSRC shifted its emphasis to land-based industrial maintenance. Kuwait's oil sector was a natural choice, and in this area there was a ready market in the maintenance of oil-export ter-

minals, storage tanks and refineries.

One major contract was awarded by the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) for the maintenance of its facilities for the next four years. Other contracts soon followed; for example a three-year contract for maintenance of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's overseas facilities. Short-term contracts have also been awarded for the construction of new plant in the oil sector.

Egypt's shipbuilding industry afloat again

THE Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has ordered an ambitious expansion programme for the nation's shipbuilders and shipping lines; both the shipyards and the merchant fleet are to be upgraded and expanded in order to increase the proportion of exports handled by Egyptian ships by a factor of ten from four per cent to 40 per cent. Egypt is also seeking to become the main shipbuilder for the Arab nations. The first contracts for this project have lifted the country's four state-owned shipbuilding yards out of a crisis of many years' standing and enabled them to work to capacity. There are also favourable prospects for a host of smaller privately-owned shipyards, which are profiting above all from a boom in cruise shipping on the Nile.

From overseas and co-operation agreements made for the transfer of technical knowhow. Foreign shipowners are already feeling the pinch, and will continue to do so even more in future, as an increasing degree of flag protectionism can be expected, and not only in trade with Egypt. Other Arab countries are also setting a national transport target at least 40 per cent, they point out, and Cairo can surely hope to be able to take over a significant proportion of this with respect to the existing economic blocks in the Arab world.

Egypt's task of practically overhauling the fleets of the member countries Iraq, Yemen, People's Republic of Jordan, and constructing important new buildings for them.

The attraction of this agreement lies in the advantage that the ACC members have in not needing to use scarce Western currency among themselves, explained the Egyptian Minister of Maritime Transport, Soliman Metwally. According to Metwally, contracts have also been signed with Iraq for the construction of four bulk carriers valued at more than 8 million Egyptian pounds. Egyptian yards have already started a programme to overhaul about 14 Iraqi ships.

Shipbuilding costs must be realistic

With today's freight rates it is impossible to consider any new-building priced over \$65 million, asserts Al Bader, who chairs the committee on the benefits of employing secondhand tonnage.

The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company employs 30 ships: two are crude-oil tankers, four are LPG carriers and the rest are product tankers. KOTC owns one of the world's most advanced and modernised fleets; the most recent newbuilding was delivered from Korea at the end of March.

Abdul Fattah Al Bader started his career as a sea cadet, training in the UK. He finished his training in 1957 and spent the next eight years working on British merchant ships. In 1965 he joined the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company as a tugmaster, remaining with them until 1970. Some years were spent in port administration, followed by his appointment to KOTC's holding company, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. In 1982 he was promoted to his current position as KOTC's chairman and managing director.

"We were the first shipowner to build 80,000dwt vessels with a 40ft draught, and we are now introducing 35,000 dwt tankers with 35ft draught." The fleet also includes 120,000dwt Suez-max product tankers.

The company was also one of the first to introduce the multi-purpose bridge, enabling manning levels, even on 120,000dwt vessels, to be reduced to a crew of 18. Fuel saving has also been a prime concern in the selection of engine type.

"We feel that newbuilding prices have increased out of all proportion. The shipyards must be more realistic in their tendering; shipowners can only pay prices it is possible for them to service. We have made enquiries about a VLCC, and offers range from \$84 million to a massive \$125 million. This represents a doubling in price over the past 18 months."

But taking into account operating and financial costs, it would be suicidal for us to consider any vessel costing above \$65 million. There is only one solution: owners should shun the newbuilding yards until shipbuilders come to their senses."

So have you given up the idea of newbuilding?

"As a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC),

we are responsible for delivering the transport they need. However, we still have our own marketing strategy. World capacity is inadequate, so that there are possibilities for increasing our fleet.

"We are appraising second hand tonnage. We shall set up rebuilding programmes for upgrading and life extension. We are looking at VLCCs and ULCCs, preferably built at European yards around 1974-75 when thick steel plates were still in use. Even those with steam-turbine propulsion will be comparatively cheap to operate as long as the price of oil remains low. Then if bunker prices rise it will become cost-effective to replace the engines."

What are your own predictions for oil prices?

"I believe oil prices will remain stable at around \$18 per barrel for the foreseeable future. But this is a politically emotive subject — in Kuwait today the price of distilled water is four times that of oil!"

Kuwait's shipping tradition goes back many years. At its peak, the country owned more than 3000 dwt boats trading throughout the region.

Kuwaiti profits up

BOARD director of Kuwait Oil Tankers Company, Abdul Fattah Al Bader, said in an interview that the company had achieved a major rise in its profits for 1989, with net profits reaching \$55 million.

He said that the increase in profits was due to greater demand in the oil market after the Iraq-Iraq ceasefire agreement.

Kuwait was one of the first countries in the world to use tankers to carry crude oil from Kuwait to the European market, with loading capacity of 290,000 tonnes.

Dubai's Port Rashid — looking to the future

DUBAI'S Port Rashid, largest container and deep-sea port in the Middle East, is set to buy more cranes, build more sheds and offices and clear extra stacking space to meet demand caused by Dubai's second trade boom in 10 years.

While development plans may take 15 months to implement, the port is looking to more efficient use of present facilities to handle the 1m TEUs which are expected to pass through in the next year or two.

Throughput is rising rapidly. Last year's figures, just released, show that the port hit a record of 644,320 TEUs, a 15.5 per cent increase over 1988's 557,521 TEUs. Busiest month was March's 61,339 TEUs, which was nearly one-third more than in previous March.

All parts of Dubai's trade were

up, the biggest increase being recorded in exports, which reached 1,122,457 tonnes, 29.6 per cent up on 1988. Imports for the year totalled 5,688,835 tonnes (up 17.8 per cent) and transshipment tonnage was 10,585,891 (up 11.5 per cent).

Despite this heavy increase and equipment being used to full capacity, Port Rashid claims there are few ship delays because the bigger lines schedule well in advance and the port makes full use of its computerised handling.

Hence Port Rashid's development plans. If they are approved, which seems likely, it will get two new berths in 1991 and another two by 1992, together with equipment to handle post-Panamax vessels. The four new container cranes, adding to the existing six, will coincide with increasing the container stacking area,


moving sheds, and a new administration building.

Meanwhile, the shortage of cranes is being countered by additional ground equipment, including straddle carriers, terminal tractors, forklift trucks and trailers. "We admit to customers that we ourselves are not satisfied with the productivity levels we are achieving — we don't want to show any signs of complacency," said David Gibbons, Port Rashid's general manager. "We realise we have a problem but believe we are tackling it positively."

Opened just 20 years ago with only two berths, the port is now a major port of call for more than 120 deep-sea shipping services which link Dubai with all the world's major shipping areas. Dubai has been marketing

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UASC improves service US-Middle East

UASC, United Arab Shipping Company, has been offering for many years container and breakbulk services between the Middle East, East Asia, Europe and North America.

In its trade to North America, UASC has been operating four sister ships of 1200 TEU capacity, and from the beginning of March, a fifth vessel of a similar capacity will be added to the service, which will allow the shipping line to operate a strict fortnightly schedule with fixed-day port calls at New York, Baltimore, Norfolk and Savannah on the one hand, and Middle East ports including the newly-added port of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates, on the other. West-bound UASC also calls at Leghorn, Fos, Valencia and Cadiz loading US-bound cargo.


New tankers for KOTC

THE Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), is expected to announce details soon of a planned order covering 11 new oil tankers. The vessels will replace older ships which will be sold after delivery, and the newbuilding contracts will most probably go to several yards in more than one country. The head of KOTC, Abdul Fattah Al Bader, is quoted as saying that the price of transporting oil would rise sharply in the coming years due to an increase in oil production and a limited supply of tankers. In addition to this, many of the tankers now employed world-wide are expected to reach the end of their useful life soon, the need for replacement thus becoming all the more urgent. The first four vessels to be ordered are said to be LPG carriers, the rest VLCCs of slightly below 300,000t. The whole programme will be spread over a considerable period to ease the financial burden for the Kuwait company.


Faster reefer to Bombay

A DIRECT reefer service between Dubai/Sharjah and Bombay has just been introduced by North Korean Moran Shipping Company. Ms "Mun Su", which has been modified by Dubai's Al Jadaf Shipyard to be better adapted to meteorological conditions in this trade, will make one round-trip every 25 days; the entire voyage is expected to take about a fortnight. Delivery time for temperature-controlled imports from India to the UAE will be reduced to around six days, a big improvement over other services which usually operate through Colombo as a transhipment point. Dubai agents for this new line are Sharaf Shipping Agency, Dubai.


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IT gives us pleasure to introduce ourselves as one of the oldest, longest established and most active agency houses in the State of Kuwait.

Our group of companies called Abdul Rahman Al Bisher Sons Co. is one of the leading Kuwaiti business houses actively engaged in its many spheres of commerce.

We take pleasure in giving a brief outline of our group's diversified activities at present being accomplished by the owners who successfully developed the company into an interlinked group and modern approach like: Abdul Rahman Al Bisher Sons Co. It groups Al Bisher Company, Freight Forwarding Div-

ision; and other sister companies (A-I).

Origins: Abdul Rahman Al Bisher, owner of the company belongs to one of the oldest established trading and business families of Kuwait.

Abdul Rahman Al Bisher Sons Company was formed. This reflects the company's development into the contracting and import/export business.

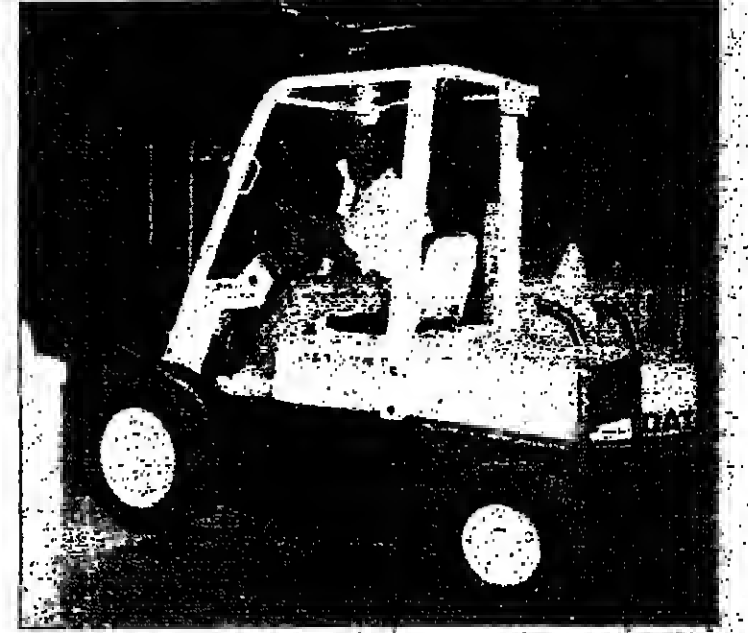
The Freight Forwarding Company was formed to service competing business, called Abdul Rahman Al Bisher Sons Co. The operations of Abdul Rahman Al Bisher Sons Co. are completely separated from those of Abdul Rahman Al Bisher

Sons and guarantees an equal level of service and professionalism as is the case with Abdul Rahman Al Bisher Sons Co.

Our company represents Mahle raised floor systems; Chubb -- cash safes; Futec -- ceiling decoration for houses and offices; Al Rabie -- full-cream unsweetened; Highload -- natural mineral water; Kawasaki -- motorcycle group; Nisah -- Nasah natural water; Nawar -- tissue paper. Address: P.O. Box 554, Safat 13006 Kuwait. Tel: 3456363-2414380 Telex: 23408 TRANACO KT. Fax: 2415440.

Abdel Rahman Al Bisher Sons Trading &

Arabesco: growing bigger and bigger



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- 2 -- International transit
- 3 -- Breakbulk agents

Arabesco in a nutshell (five in five)

- 1 -- Well-know to VIP industrialists, manufacturers, exporters, shippers & forwarders.
- 2 -- Virtually masters of Middle East forwarding & transit.
- 3 -- Well represented in five continents
- 4 -- Ranking high on top of the list wherever efficiency, promptness, speed, technicality, quality & courtesy are sought.

5 -- Solvers of all shipping problems

ARABESCO YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1 -- Do operate regular eastland services from Kuwait to all destinations

2 -- Have expert technical staff

3 -- Established offices & agencies throughout the M.E. the Gulf, Saudi Arabia

4 -- Freight rates are competitive vis-a-vis services rendered.

5 -- Never stopped operation even under very trying conditions

ARABESCO OFFER

- 1 -- Give you free advice

2 -- Connect you abroad with reliable sources

3 -- Packing -- collection -- delivery of goods

4 -- Unique forwarding services, containerized -- consolidated -- ro-ro shipments

5 -- Offer you service with smile

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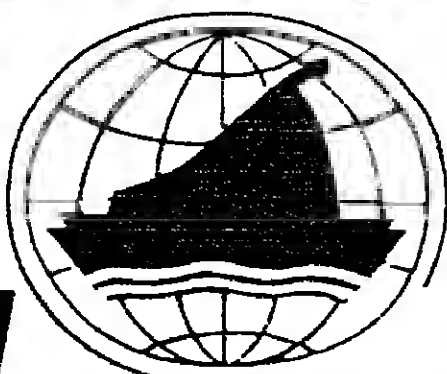
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

OECD's oil need likely to increase

PARIS, May 7 (UPI): Oil consumption by OECD countries during the year's first quarter was unchanged from the same period in 1989 at 38.5 million barrels a day but is expected to increase by 1.5 per cent during the second quarter, the International Energy Agency said today.

Production by OECD member countries in the first quarter averaged 16 million barrels a day, a 0.8 per cent decline from the first quarter last year.

The IEA said a five per cent increase in April oil consumption over March in the OECD Pacific area to 6.5 million barrels a day and a two per cent increase in European oil consumption to 13 million barrels a day were offset by a 2.5 per cent consumption decline to 19 million barrels a day in North America.

Growth

The agency said that in the second quarter consumption in the OECD area is expected to increase by 1.5 per cent over the second quarter last year to 36.5 million barrels a day. North America is expected to register a one per cent increase to 15.9 million barrels a day while European consumption should rise by 1.5 per cent to 12.2 million barrels a day.

The OECD Pacific region is expected to see a 2.5 per cent consumption increase in the second quarter last year to 5.8 million barrels a day.

The agency said the moderate rate of growth expected during the second quarter is in part due to the unusually high per cent growth rate registered in the second quarter last year.

Oil consumption for all of 1990 should increase one per cent over 1989 to 38 million barrels a day, the IEA said.

Oil production by countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development was estimated at 15.9 million barrels a day, about 100,000 barrels a day less than during March, primarily due to a 5.5 per cent decline in US output to less than nine million barrels a day, the agency said.

The agency said that based on the first three weeks of April, Opec oil production is estimated at 22.5 million barrels a day for the entire month, exactly the same figure released by Opec itself at an emergency meeting last week of its price monitoring committee in Geneva.

Spot prices for all major crude oils declined significantly last month to their lowest level since late 1988, the agency said.

A 25 per cent decline in crude oil prices since the start of the year led Opec ministers to decide last week on a 1.445 million barrels a day cut in production in an effort to push prices closer to the \$18 a barrel reference price set last November by the organisation.

The price of a barrel of crude oil was hovering around the \$15.70 mark late last week.

Quotas

But markets, accustomed to widespread cheating on quotas by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, ignored the promise to cut production, pushing prices even lower late last week.

The IEA said Saudi Arabia had produced 5.7 million barrels a day in April, 100,000 barrels a day more than in March and much higher than its 5.3 million barrels a day quota.

The Saudis promised to immediately cut daily production by 430,000 barrels at the Geneva meeting, while Kuwait said it would reduce output by 400,000 barrels a day and Nigeria by 140,000 barrels a day.

Production by the United Arab Emirates was put at 2.1 million barrels a day in April by the IEA, the same as in March. The UAE, which has never recognised its 1.095 million barrels a day quota agreed to by Opec ministers last November, said last week it will cut its daily production by 200,000 barrels for the next three months.

The IEA said Kuwait's daily production in April was 1.7 million barrels a day, just below the 1.8 million barrels it produced in March.

Algeria hails Opec accord

ALGIERS, May 7 (Reuters): Algeria, which currently presides over the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has hailed oil output cuts agreed by Opec in Geneva last week and an oil official predicted they would soon boost world prices.

It also instructed its state hydrocarbons group Sonatrach to cut output immediately by 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 760,000 bpd in line with a six per cent cut agreed last Thursday by Opec's 13 member states for the May-July period.

A council of ministers meeting last night chaired by President Chadli Bendjedid said the cuts, totalling 1.445 million barrels per day (bpd), showed member states were serious about addressing this year's 25 per cent fall in world oil prices.

A senior oil official told Reuters today that all the ingredients were in place for a revival of prices especially since demand for Opec oil was likely to rise in coming months.

"All the elements for a revival are in place," he said. "We are emerging from the bottom of the wave and demand is going to increase."

The cuts, mostly borne by giant Gulf Arab oil producers Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), aim to bring Opec output back to near its self-imposed ceiling for the first half of the year of around 22 million bpd.

Opec pledge uncertain

Promise cutbacks to shore up oil prices

NICOSIA, May 7 (Reuters): Pledges by some producers to reduce their production as part of an Opec-wide cutback to shore up world oil prices look dubious, the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said today.

Commenting on the agreement at last week's Opec meeting in Geneva to cut total output by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries by 1.445 million barrels per day (bpd), MEES said a reduction of 800,000 to one million bpd was possible.

"It might be fair to say that probably something between 800,000 and one million bpd of the proposed Opec output reduction looks reasonably solid, while the rest lies in a grey area which does not inspire a great deal of confidence," the Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said.

Opec's 13 members had agreed last week to make the cuts in the May-July period, from an estimated 23.5 million bpd in April, to help crude market prices recover from a drop of more than 25 per cent since January.

But the agreement did not convince oil markets that excess oil will disappear and prices fell further after last Thursday's pact.

Opec had agreed to keep its output at 22.086 million bpd in the first half of 1990. More than one million bpd of Opec's excess output came from the big three Gulf producers, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

MEES said the sceptics were questioning

the extent of compliance to the Geneva pact by Kuwait and the UAE.

Kuwait agreed to cut its output to its quota level of 1.5 million bpd from its current 1.9 million and the UAE had declared its output at 2.1 million bpd and said it would cut 200,000 bpd.

The UAE refuses to honour its Opec quota, claiming its allocations were too small for the size of its reserves and production capacities.

"The credibility of Saudi Arabia's declared return to quota is nowhere called into question," MEES said. Saudi Arabia said it would lower output immediately to its Opec quota level of 5.38 million bpd from an estimated 5.81 million.

US sets conditions for rise in IMF resources

Call to crack down on poor

WASHINGTON, May 7 (AP): US Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady said today the United States will support increasing the resources of the International Monetary Fund only if it agrees to crack down on poor countries behind in their loan payments.

Brady's comments to IMF's policy-making interim committee came one day after finance leaders of the world's seven largest industrial powers endorsed a 50 per cent boost in the fund's resources to \$180 billion from the current \$120 billion.

However, he said the United States support an increase in capital contributions from member nations, called quotas, only if the fund adopts a new strategy to bring \$4 billion in back payments from 11 countries—Sudan, Zambia, Peru, Honduras, Guyana, Cambodia, Vietnam, Liberia, Panama, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

"These arrears pose a fundamental challenge to the IMF's financial integrity and its central role in the world economy," Brady said.

The Group of Seven—finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the United States, Japan, West Germany, Great Britain, France, Canada and Italy—met yesterday in an "oriente caucus" room in the Capitol.

"They said a 50 per cent quota increase would provide the Fund with the resources to fulfill its central responsibilities in the world economy," IMF managing director Michel Camdessus originally sought a 100 per cent increase to enable the Fund to support emerging capitalism in Eastern Europe and back Brady's strategy for ending the crushing \$1.3 trillion Third World debt.

Many developing countries are pushing for a bigger increase, and 70 per cent of the IMF membership has supported an increase of two-thirds or more.

The issue moved today to the 22-nation interim committee, the IMF policy body. The increase must be approved by 85 per cent of the Fund's voting power. The United States, with 20 per cent of the voting power, effectively has a veto on the matter.

Currency markets, often the focus of Group of Seven gatherings, received less attention. Exchange rates have been relatively stable since the ministers' last meeting on April 7 in Paris, but the yen remains near a three-year low against the dollar.

A weak yen helps boost the US trade deficit by making US goods more expensive in Japan and Japanese products cheaper in the United States.

Also on the agenda of the session, closed to reporters and the public, were the economic effects of the reunification of Germany and a review of progress since Brady launched the new debt strategy in March 1989.

The Group of Seven gathering preceded the spring meetings today and tomorrow of the IMF and its sister lending organisation, the World Bank. Its seal of approval is the crucial first step for the \$60-billion increase in capital contributions, known as quotas. The US share would be about \$12 billion.

The increase faces opposition from members of Congress sceptical of foreign aid programmes, even though the complex treatment of IMF finances keeps the US contribution from showing up in the budget deficit.

Brady acknowledged that the 152-nation lending organisation needs more money to meet new demand for its loans from Eastern European countries moving from communism to capitalism, as well as for developing nations. Although the United States had supported a smaller boost, he said it has agreed to 50 per cent as compromise.

"We firmly believe that the IMF must have adequate resources... to continue to fulfill its critical responsibilities in the world economy," he said.

IMF talks topped by debt strategy

Interim committee

WASHINGTON, May 7 (Reuters): Finance ministers representing the IMF's 152 member-nations have two highly technical—but divisive—issues at the top of their agenda when the policy-making interim committee meets this evening.

■ An increase in the resources or "subscription quotas" of the fund to strengthen its lending power.

■ A review of the strategy for tackling the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt.

The IMF's ninth review of quotas has been marked by dispute and postponement, with the date for completion extended from the end of March 1988 to end-December 1989 and, most recently, to June 30, 1990.

IMF members have to commit their allotted quotas to the fund and in return have the right to borrow up to 440 per cent of that. The current level of quotas is 90 billion Special Drawing Rights (SDR) or about \$120 billion.

Developing nations want a rise of at least 67 per cent but industrial countries agreed to a tough joint position on Sunday stating they believed 50 per cent was adequate.

The size of quota, which affects voting power, is a highly political issue.

Debt strategy

The debt strategy developed over the last two years has two main pillars:

The Toronto terms, agreed by leading industrial nations at their Toronto summit in 1988, is aimed at tackling the burden of official debt of the poorest countries.

Creditor governments have three options: They can cancel one third of outstanding debt and reschedule the remainder over 14 years; reschedule over 25 years; or charge below-market interest rates.

The Brady plan, unveiled a year ago by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, urges banks to write off part of their loans to the Third World.

Mexico was the first to reach agreement with banks, while the Philippines, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Morocco and Chile have since trod the same path.

Under the Mexico plan, bankers had three options: They could swap their loans for bonds, backed indirectly by World Bank and IMF funds but carrying a lower interest rate than the original debt; or they could write off 35 per cent of debt in return for bonds bearing a normal interest rate; or, in an option which proved to be by far the least popular, they could put up new loans equal to 25 per cent of exposure.

Short dates firmer on Kuwait market

KUWAIT, May 7 (Reuters): Short dates were slightly firmer on the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market today, dealers said.

Short dates were in demand, they said, and overnight was quoted at 8-1/4 eight per cent, tomorrow/next and spot/next at 8-5/8 8-3/8 and one week at 8-5/8 8-1/2.

Local activity was seen in fixed dates, although one month dealt at 8-9/16 and 8-1/2 and was later being quoted at 8-11/16 8-1/2. Three months was quoted at 8-3/4 8-1/2, six months at 8-13/16 8-5/8, and one year at 8-7/8 8-5/8. The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29234/44 to the dollar.

● The Saudi rial interbank deposit market continued quiet today, dealers said.

The market saw little activity, although rates went up slightly in line with dollar interest rates, they said.

Bid to block \$60b for IMF

WASHINGTON, May 7 (AP): A group of Third World countries threatened to block a \$60-billion increase in the International Monetary Fund's resources because it is linked to a plan to force delinquent nations to repay their debts.

The Group of 24 (G-24) Third World countries voted behind closed doors to issue a long statement on fund policies. It included criticism of plans to link the increased IMF contribution to making 11 delinquent countries repay \$4.3 billion in arrears they owe the fund. It has been proposed that to get the delinquents to pay up, the fund could suspend their right to vote.

"The proposal for suspension of voting and representation rights of those members will not serve a useful purpose and is not acceptable," the joint statement said.

On Thursday a senior US treasury official supported a carrot-and-stick approach to the arrears problem.

It would offer help from a special fund to countries in arrears if they agree to new policies designed to put them in better shape to pay up. Until they do, it would suspend their right to vote in the fund. The rights correspond roughly to their contributions, known as quotas.

The US contribution to the increased quotas would be about \$12 billion. The amount would not be added to the federal budget deficit and would not change US voting rights, since other members also would contribute.

Sayed Mohammad Hossein Adeli, head of Iran's Central Bank and chairman of the Group of 24, declined to say whether group members would vote against the \$60 billion quota increase if it is linked to the plan on arrears.

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	16.990
Sri Lankan rupee	7.400
Pakistani rupee	13.480
Bangladesh taka	8.800
US dollar	29.285
Pound sterling	48.775
UAE dirham	0.7970
Deutsche mark	1.7640
Japanese yen	0.01863

Libya strikes oil

NICOSIA, May 7 (AP): Libya has made two major oil discoveries in the Bu Artifel in the Sirte Basin.

The respected oil industry newsletter, published in Cyprus, said the first discovery was made last month 20 miles (30 kilometres) east of Bu Artifel in the Sirte Basin.

The strike was made in a sandstone formation at a depth of around 15,800 feet (5,000 metres), one of the deepest wells drilled in the region, the weekly survey reported.

The well tested at 11,000 barrels a day, it said. Preliminary estimates of reserves were put at around 300 million barrels.

The second strike was further south and tested at 5,000 barrels a day, MEES said. Preliminary estimates there were at least 500 million barrels.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) May 7, '90.	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC Chem	434	433	440
Alm Chem	—	—	—
Alw Nis	—	—	—
Ari Fah	—	—	—
Ashok Ley	91	91	89.50
Asia Paint	233.75	233.75	237.50
Atlas Cop	37	36	37
Auto Corp	66.25	65	67.50
Nat Index	415.65	—	—
Bajaj Auto	457.50	453.75	455
Bar Rayon	842.50	845	850
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	203	202	206.15
BK Bond	116	114	75
Burr Wel	75	70	34.50
Cen Enka	3450	3425	3450
Cen Spg	3170	3170	3190
Colgate	205	206.25	206.25
Crompt Gr	990	975	1010
DCM	—	—	—
Deep Fert	29	28.50	29
Dunlop	54	60	64
El Hotels	59.50	58	59
Escorts	87	86	87
BSE Index	776.11	—	—
Esakay	132.50	133.75	132.50
Essar Spg	39.25	39.50	38.75
Food Spl	118.75	117.50	118.75
Forbes	30	48.50	49.50
Gas Poly	39	38.50	39
GL India	101.50	100	101
GNFC	37.50	37	36.50
Grasim	128.50	128	128.50
GE Shpg	50.50	50.50	49.75
GSCF	177.50	177.50	180
Guj Alki	82.50	81	83
Guj Heavy	15.75	15	16
Hero Honda	17.50	16	17
Hind Ciba	1280	1270	1300
Hind Lever	115.25	115	116
SKF	1350	1330	1350
Spic	57.50	58	58
SI Mills	78	77	78
Tata Oil	135	139.75	135
Tata Chem	120	119.50	121
Tata Pow	450	450	450
Thapp Agro	150.50	152	151.50
Tisco	116.75	117.25	117.25
Vam Org	137.50	136.25	135
Vareli	—	—	—
Volta	73.75	—	—
Wimco	17	16.50	17.50
Zenith	48	47	50
Zuari Agro	55	52.50	55

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 30956.27		
(+782.63)		
Volume: 600 mil shs		
Yen exchange rate: 157.80		
Names of stock	Chng	
Advantec Corp	5140	
Aijomoto	2080	
Alps Elec	2080	
Asahi Chem Ind	895	
Asahi Glass	1830	
C. Itoh Co	860	
Canon Inc	1760	
Casio Comp	1630	
Dai Nippon Printing	1980	
Daiichi Sekiyu	2550	
Dainippon Ind	2540	
Dainippon Corp	1720	
Eiai	1840	
Fujitsu Ltd	7060	
Fujitsu Ltd	4200	
Fujitsu Ltd	1440	
Hitachi Credit	1430	
Hitachi Koki	2210	
Hitachi Ltd	1610	
Hitachi Metal	1410	
Honda Motor	1820	
Itoyo Okado Co	4080	
Kajima Corp	1760	
Kawasaki H I	851	
Kobe Cast Iron	1260	
Kosmos Ind	4900	
Konstant Ltd	1120	
Kyocera Corp	7350	
Maru	3030	
Matsushita Ind	3690	
Mitsubishi Ind	2170	
Mitsubishi Corp	875	
Mitsubishi Estate	1430	
Mitsubishi H I	1660	
Mitsubishi H I	954	
Mitsubishi H I	1830	
Mitsubishi H I	1760	
Mitsubishi H I	3870	
Mitsubishi H I	3600	
Mitsubishi H I	2140	
Nippon Chem	1420	
Nippon Steel Corp	1130	
Nippon Steel Corp	600	
Nippon Steel Corp	2170	
Nippon Steel Corp	1380	
Nippon Steel Corp	2270	
Nippon Steel Corp	1650	
Nippon Steel Corp	3020	
Nippon Steel Corp	4200	
Nippon Steel Corp	5960	
Nippon Steel Corp	1890	
Nippon Steel Corp	870	
Nippon Steel Corp	6350	
Nippon Steel Corp	1610	
Nippon Steel Corp	1090	
Nippon Steel Corp	8330	
Nippon Steel Corp	1510	
Nippon Steel Corp	610	
Nippon Steel Corp	1840	
Nippon Steel Corp	6850	
Nippon Steel Corp	1540	
Nippon Steel Corp	4270	
Nippon Steel Corp	3920	
Nippon Steel Corp	1900	
Nippon Steel Corp	868	
Nippon Steel Corp	1070	
Nippon Steel Corp	2410	
Nippon Steel Corp	998	

US productivity declines

WASHINGTON, May 7 (Reuters): The productivity of American businesses outside the farming sector fell an unexpectedly sharp 1.0 per cent in the first quarter of 1990 from the previous period, despite big gains in the manufacturing sector, the US Labour Department said today.

The decline in the output of the nation's businesses compared with a revised 0.5 per cent advance in productivity for the 1989 fourth quarter.

Economists generally expected that productivity, which measures the output per hour of all workers—employees, proprietors and unpaid family workers—would rise at a modest pace.

The figure is considered a long-term key to reducing the nation's budget deficit, because American companies must become more efficient to compete internationally.

The report shows the large current account imbalances of the United States, Japan and West Germany remaining broadly unchanged relative to gross national product in the period ahead. The US current account deficit is projected to rise from \$106 billion in 1989 to \$113 billion in 1990 and \$130 billion in 1991.

The report notes that progress under the developing country debt reduction strategy first proposed by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has so far resulted in final agreements for Mexico and the Philippines, and that three other countries, Costa Rica, Morocco and Venezuela have reached agreements in principle with their creditors. "The generally slow progress of negotiations has been disappointing and could mean a substantial delay in the restoration of growth in some highly indebted countries," the report said.

Strong domestic adjustment measures in the indebted countries remain the key to achieving sustained growth, the report adds, but notes that growth also will be required that markets for developing country exports remain open, that the supply of world saving be sufficient to ensure a lasting decline in world interest rates, and that official financial assistance to Eastern Europe not lead to a decline in the financial resources going to developing countries.

Regarding the East European countries, the report says that "the near-term economic outlook for this group has worsened significantly, even though the economic reforms that have been implemented or are contemplated in these countries should establish a basis for stronger performance in the longer run."

Dollar eases against mark

FRANKFURT, May 7 (Reuters): The dollar eased against the mark in Europe today because of what some traders said was a failure by G-7 leading industrial states to come up with any new initiatives at weekend talks in Washington.

But trade was subdued, with London closed for a national holiday. Many French operators stayed out of the market and took a long weekend because of a holiday tomorrow.

European shares were buoyed by a surge in Tokyo where the key Nikkei index, helped by a firmer yen, closed 782.63 points or 2.59 per cent higher.

The Group of Seven (G-7)—the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Canada, Britain and Italy—said in a statement yesterday that it was concerned about the weakness of Japan's yen.

But the statement merely reiterated one made when the group met one month ago in Paris. The G-7 worries that the yen's 10 per cent drop this year will undermine its efforts to right the world trade balance.

"They came out with a statement, but there was nothing the market could really trade on," said one dealer with a US bank in Frankfurt.

The West German mark was buoyed by the dollar's weakness and helped by data showing that industrial orders jumped 2.9 per cent in March after a 0.4 per cent rise in February.

The currency also benefited from an apparent end to doubts about labour relations in Europe's strongest economy and an announcement last week of the terms for monetary union with East Germany, which dispelled speculation.

The powerful IG Metall metalworkers' union on Friday reached a regional agreement with employers on a 1990 pay deal, which includes a six per cent pay rise.

Over the weekend German unification came two steps closer after Moscow dropped its last major reservation against it and East Germans voted once more for a quick merger with the West.

The Soviet Union said on Saturday it would give a green light to unity even before Germany's future military status is settled. East Germany's ruling Christian Democrats, favouring quick unification, emerged the strongest party in Sunday's municipal elections, despite suffering significant losses.

"The mark is being met with positive news," said a dealer.

The weekend elections strengthened East Germany's fledgling democracy. Unification can now take place more quickly, which is good news for the West German economy," said another trader.

The dollar opened one pfennig down against the mark at \$1.6620 after a Friday close of \$1.6715. It closed today at \$1.6555.

Dealers said operators were set to push the dollar down to 1.65 marks after which it could rebound to 1.67 or 1.68.

Against the yen, the dollar was also weak. It opened around 157.83 yen after a New York close of 158.30 on Friday and finished in Frankfurt today at 157.70.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning compared with late Friday:

● 1.6600 West German mark, down from 1.6710

● 1.4370 Swiss francs, down from 1.4435

In Zurich, the bid price for gold was \$371.70 a troy ounce, up from \$371.00 late Friday.

Exam, in Hong Kong, gold rose 34 cents to close at a bid \$373.10.

Growth in industrialised countries to slow down this year

IMF semi-annual 'world economic outlook' says the growth rate is expected to climb back in 1991

WASHINGTON, May 7 (OPECNA): Overall growth in industrialised countries should slow down somewhat during the current year, but then accelerate in 1991 at the same time that the inflation is rising less rapidly, according to the latest economic projections by the staff of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In its semi-annual "world economic outlook" released last week, the fund forecasts industrialised country growth of 2.3 per cent in 1990, down from three per cent in 1989 and 4.1 per cent in 1988. However, the growth rate is expected to climb back to 3.1 per cent in 1991.

Developing country growth, estimated at three per cent in 1989, is projected to accelerate slightly to 3.2 per cent this year and to 4.5 per cent in 1991. The US growth is projected to slow to 1.75 per cent this year before recovering to 2.25 per cent in 1991.

Inflation, which accelerated in industrialised countries from 3.3 per cent in 1988 to 4.4 per cent last year, is expected to slow slightly to 4.2 per cent in 1990, and keep falling to 3.6 per cent in 1991.

This will occur in response to restrained monetary policy, the expected moderation in growth and a weak outlook for commodity prices, and because of the temporary nature of some of the factors underlying the pick-up in consumer prices in 1989, according to the report. US inflation is forecast in the 4.5 to six per cent range this year and next.

Inflation in developing countries is projected to plummet dramatically from 1991 to 14 per cent, from an overall level of over 100 per cent in 1989. In Latin America, the projected drop is from over 500 per cent in 1989 to 28 per cent in 1991. This projection assumes that current inflation rates in the high-inflation countries are unsustainable, and that strong stabilisation programmes will be implemented to bring the rates down.

Whereas most of the IMF projections are based on an assumption of no policy changes over the coming period, IMF officials explained at a briefing, the fund also assumes that the stabilisation steps that are included in IMF-supported adjustment programmes of member countries will be carried out. Non-oil commodity prices weakened in 1989 as a result of the slowing of economic activity in the industrialised countries and excess commodity supplies in some markets, and the IMF

expects a further one per cent decline in 1990 before these prices stabilise in 1991.

On interest rates, the report forecasts a gradual decline over the coming period, with the six-month bill (London inter-bank offered rate) dropping from 9.3 per cent in 1989 to 8.6 per cent this year and 8.3 per cent in 1991.

IMF officials emphasised that their projections did not take into account possible consequences of monetary and economic unification of Germany. Although it is difficult to gauge the impact of unification, the report said, indicating that upward pressures on prices and interest rates could be expected, and a rise in German demand for imports could extend price pressures to other countries that are operating close to capacity.

The report shows the large current account imbalances of the United States, Japan and West Germany remaining broadly unchanged relative to gross national product in the period ahead. The US current account deficit is projected to rise from \$106 billion in 1989 to \$113 billion in 1990 and \$130 billion in 1991.

The report notes that progress under the developing country debt reduction strategy first proposed by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has so far resulted in final agreements for Mexico and the Philippines, and that three other countries, Costa Rica, Morocco and Venezuela have reached agreements in principle with their creditors. "The generally slow progress of negotiations has been disappointing and could mean a substantial delay in the restoration of growth in some highly indebted countries," the report said.

Strong domestic adjustment measures in the indebted countries remain the key to achieving sustained growth, the report adds, but notes that growth also will be required that markets for developing country exports remain open, that the supply of world saving be sufficient to ensure a lasting decline in world interest rates, and that official financial assistance to Eastern Europe not lead to a decline in the financial resources going to developing countries.

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BUSINESS

Algeria to pay off US debt

ABU DHABI, May 7 (Kuna): Algeria is currently implementing a programme to free its economy from shackles by paying off its \$34 billion American debt, the Algerian Minister of Economy, Ghazi Al Hedousi said here yesterday.

In an interview with Kuna, Hedousi said Algeria is currently allocating 65 per cent of its national income to pay off these debts within the framework of its economic reform programme. The programme went into effect two years ago, Hedousi said, noting the coun-

try's debts increased \$2 billion only in these years.

The Algerian minister, who is currently on an official visit to Abu Dhabi, anticipated that the 65 per cent would be reduced to 30 per cent late next year after Algeria repays an important part of its debts.

He said that 80 per cent of public sector companies have been bought by banks and Algerians were allowed to buy their stocks. Only eight companies were kept under govern-

ment control for strategic conditions and subsidies such as the metal and steel company, Hedousi underlined.

The current economic reform programme has allowed foreign participation in investment ventures from the first time, the minister noted.

Hedousi stressed that Algeria has rejected the negotiation principle with international funds, citing that rescheduling debts would generate new interest rate. He added that some under-

Kuwaitis offered stake in oil sector

Hungary welcomes investments

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

HUNGARY yesterday offered Kuwaiti stakes in its oil sector and tourism and said it is counting on Kuwait to help it raise investment funds in other GCC countries.

In return Hungary will serve as a bridge to the enormous Eastern European market, Hungarian Secretary of State for Trade Zoltan Gombocz told a group of Kuwaiti businessmen.

"The Hungarian government has indicated several times... that it would welcome Kuwaiti capital investments in the sectors related to oil industry and tourism but in other fields as well," Gombocz said.

Budapest is particularly keen on attracting the financing for the construction of luxury hotels with the total of 12,000 rooms and 10 three- and four-star hotels before the World Expo 1995, it will launch jointly with Vienna.

Kuwait, eager to invest in Hungary's oil sector, said it would depart from its customary insistence on 100 per cent control over its oil investments and would even settle for the minority share in a joint venture with Hungarians. However, the Kuwaiti response in other sectors was guarded.

The political upheaval that led to the introduction of a multi-party system and market oriented economy in Hungary has warranted caution, Kuwaiti



Zoltan Gombocz

businessmen said. In addition, Kuwaitis have always favoured investing in shares rather than industrial or infrastructure projects, and Hungary's nascent stock market has yet to grow before it could compete with international financial centres.

Events

A Kuwaiti banker, whose bank has financed Hungarian companies in the Gulf states and granted loans to Budapest over the past 15 years, said yesterday the bank had slowed down a flow

of funds after the political changes.

"We have conducted our own study of the events in Hungary and have decided to freeze some loans before a clearer picture emerges," said the banker, who preferred not to be identified.

But he stressed that his bank will continue to finance Hungarian companies carrying out projects in Kuwait and would finance Hungarian projects in the oil sector.

"We are encouraged by the KPC (Kuwait Petroleum Corporation) to help Hungarians finance oil-related projects. We have already opened a letter of credit to enable them to import oil products from Kuwait and elsewhere," the banker said.

It is no coincidence that Kuwait is the first Arab country with which Hungary signed an agreement, last November, for the mutual protection of investments. Another agreement, to eliminate double taxation, is currently being negotiated.

Under pressure to privatise industry and services and desperately short of private capital, Hungary is also hoping to tap some of the capital potential elsewhere in the Gulf. In that it might need Kuwait's help.

Said Gombocz: "Being aware of Kuwait's initiative and entering into a partnership with it, we are counting on its mediation drawing in the capital of the surrounding oil countries."

Dinar higher against dollar

Gulf market review

Kuwaiti dinar

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded higher against the US dollar ending the week at 293.49 fils compared with its week before last closing of 294.10 fils. The KD traded higher against the pound sterling, ending the week at 480.88 fils compared with its week before last closing of 481.29 fils. The KD was lower against the DM ending the week at 174.19 fils compared with its week before last closing of 173.61 fils. The KD was also lower against the SFR ending the week at 201.54 fils compared with its week before last closing of 198.38 fils. The KD was higher against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 251.39 fils compared with its week before last closing of 253.48 fils. The KD was higher against the Australian dollar ending the week at 221.87 fils compared with its week before last closing at 225.57 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 436.09 fils compared with its week before last closing of 436.35 fils. The KD traded slightly higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market rates, short term interbank offer rates, traded slightly higher compared to their previous rates. One month and 3 months rates traded around 7.5 per cent - 8.81 per cent and 8.62 per cent - 8.81 per cent range the week before last. On the other hand, both 6-month and 12-month rates traded within a narrow range at 8.87 per cent - 9.00 per cent range compared to 8.87 per cent - 8.93 per cent range the week before last.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced two new separate T-Bills issues, the first is 3-month T-Bill issue No. (116) of KD75 million, with effective and maturity dates of May 9, and August 8, 1990, respectively. The second issue is 6-month T-Bill issue No. (117) of KD75 million with effective and maturity dates of May 9 and November 7, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices moved higher over last week as buying centred on blue chips. Futures related buying, short covering and a rally in bond prices on a mild April employment report helped prices move higher. The Dow Jones industrial average opened the week at 2656 and closed higher at 2710, recording a gain of 65 points over the previous week's closing at 2645.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange moved higher last week, supported by future demand and on general relief later in the week that the ruling Conservative party had not done as badly as the local elections as many had feared. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2103 and closed higher at 2159, recording a gain of 26 points over the previous week's closing at 2133.

Share prices on the Tokyo Stock Market strengthened in the shortened week, underpinned by an increasingly stable and growing overall market confidence. The 225-share Nikkei index opened the week at 29,539, and closed higher at 30,173, recording a gain of 589 points over the previous week's closing at 29,584.

US dollar

After trading mixed earlier last week, the US dollar closed mostly lower, ending at its lowest level against the mark in three months. The dollar fell sharply after week US employment data for April quashed speculation the Fed would boost US interest rates any time soon.

The US unemployment rate unexpectedly rose in April to 5.4 per cent from 5.2 per cent in March. Also non-farm employment rose just 64,000 in April, after rising 103,000 in March. Although the employment numbers are not changing the moderate growth scenario of the economy, they are seen eliminating any chance of an imminent credit tightening by the Fed.

However, recent economic indicators have pointed to a moderate improvement in the March factory goods orders and leading indicators posted their biggest rises since 1988. Factory orders rose 3.8 per cent in March after a 1.8 per cent rise in February, while March leading indicators index rose 0.9 per cent after falling 1.0 per cent in February. Also the National Association of Purchasing Management's index registered 50.2 per cent in April from 48.8 per cent in March. This is the highest index level in a year.

Sales of single-family homes fell 5.0 per cent in March to an annual rate of \$74,000, while the February sales figures were revised to show a drop of 1.5 per cent instead of the previously reported rise of 3.18 per cent. March construction spending fell 1.4 per cent after rising 3.2 per cent in February. The fall was the largest monthly decline since a 1.5 per cent drop in February 1989.

The dollar is likely to face further selling pressure this week. However, the market will have to wait until this week for confirmation that the dollar has really fallen from its recent band.

Pound sterling

The pound sterling opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.6400/10 and closed sharply higher at \$1.6630/40, compared to its week before last closing at \$1.6320/40.

The pound strengthened last week partly due to an unwilling of long mark and short yen positions and partly due to short term interest rates which continue high against the other major currencies and which help bolster the pound. At the end of the week, the Conservative Party's loss of 200 seats in Thursday's local elections was a much smaller setback than had been expected, enabling sterling to continue the gradual upward push it began earlier in the week.

The pound showed no reaction to the latest quarterly industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) which said it predicted a slight increase in industrial output over the next 4 months but a fall in the number of people employed in manufacturing industry.

This week, there could be a delayed sterling reaction to the local election, if the weekend press is bearish on the result. Also a severe test of sterling is much closer to hand on Friday, May 11 which sees the release of UK retail price inflation data for April.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the dollar at 158.90/00 yen and closed the week higher at 158.20/30 yen compared with its week before last closing of 159.30/40 yen.

Japan's March current account widened to a \$8.13 billion surplus from a \$4.91 billion surplus in the previous month. March trade balance widened to a \$8.1 billion surplus from a \$5.49 billion surplus in February. Japan's current account shrank to a \$33.5 billion surplus in fiscal 1989/90 ended March 31, from \$77.3 billion in 1988/89. It is likely continue to decline on an annual basis. The 1989/90 figure was below the official estimate of \$61 billion.

The yen is likely to trade this week at 157-158.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the dollar at 1.6785/95 marks and closed higher at 1.6637/67 marks, compared to its week before last closing at 1.6765/75 marks.

The mark was underpinned later in the week by news of a settlement of a strike involving IG Metall, West Germany's biggest union. The pact, expected to set the stage for similar deals throughout the country's allied worries that labour unrest would spark new inflation pressures. The mark also benefited from a fall in West German unemployment in April.

Earlier last week, East Berlin and East German governments agreed on key terms for monetary union, allowing older East Germans to swap more marks at par and a younger people fewer. The agreement on exchange rates called for wages, pensions and rents to be swapped at one Eastern for one Western mark, while company debts and other money will be exchanged at two-to-one. People 60 years and older will be able to swap up to 6,000 marks at a one-to-one rate while people aged 15 to 59 may exchange savings of 4,000 marks.

The mark is likely to move in a band of 1.65-1.67 in the near term.

Other currencies

FRANCH FRANCO: The French franc opened the week against the US dollar at 5.6310/40 FF and closed higher at 5.5930/60 FF, compared to its week before last closing at 5.6265/95 FF.

SWISS FRANC: The Swiss franc opened the week against the US dollar at 1.4515/25 Sfr and closed higher at 1.4425/35 Sfr, compared to its week before last closing at 1.4540/50 Sfr.

CANADIAN DOLLAR: The Canadian dollar opened the week against the dollar at 1.1642/47 C\$ and closed higher at 1.1625/30 C\$, compared to its week before last closing at 1.1640/45 C\$. The strength of the Canadian dollar is expected to continue in the near term because there is little room to ease interest rates with annual inflation running at 5.3 per cent, recent wage settlements averaging over 7 per cent and a 7 per cent consumption tax taking effect in January. Finance Minister Michael Wilson said that despite two months of a shrinking economy, Canadian interest rates cannot fall because of inflationary pressures.

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR: The Australian dollar opened the week against the dollar at 1.5075/10 A\$ and closed higher at 1.5055/5 A\$, compared to its week before last closing at 1.5075/30 A\$. An easing in the rate of increase of Australia's consumer price index for the third consecutive quarter indicates inflation has finally peaked. The consumer price index rose 1.7 per cent in the first quarter of 1990, in line with market expectations, compared with 1.9 per cent in the final three months of 1989.

PRECIOUS METALS: Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$367.25/\$37.75 and closed higher at 371.25/\$37.75, but lower of \$1.251.75 over the previous week's closing at \$372.50/\$37.50.

SILVER: Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$491.49 and closed at \$505.07, recording a gain of 38 cents over the previous week's closing at \$497.49.

PLATINUM: Platinum prices opened the week at \$468.469 and closed higher at \$482.50/\$48.50, recording a gain of \$8.50 over the previous week's closing at \$474.75.

Cairo reforms yet to come

CAIRO, May 7 (Reuters): Egypt, risking social unrest, has raised some energy and food prices to clinch a badly-needed deal with the IMF, but economists said today the bulk of economic reforms were yet to come.

"The big one will come when they devalue the (Egyptian) pound against the dollar," one economist said.

Egypt has over the past week more than doubled butane gas prices, increased petrol and other oil products prices by up to 60 per cent and raised prices for several basic food items.

Government officials, fearing unrest similar to food riots in 1977 which forced Cairo to cancel price hikes, said the new prices remained below international levels.

But the economists said proposed IMF reforms included harsher measures which would have wider effects on the country's stagnant economy and its 55 million people, for whom the government imports more than half the food they eat.

"Raising prices, deposit and exchange rates would be too many inflationary measures which the economy cannot take in one go," Oxford-educated economist Murad Wahba said.

The main obstacle in Egypt's two years of talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been the speed of implementing politically and socially-sensitive reforms.

"The government can not risk implementing all reforms at one go because of possible political upheavals," said Wahba, an economics professor at the American University in Cairo.

President Hosni Mubarak warned last week that Cairo could no longer afford to subsidise basic goods as the population grew by a million every eight months. He put annual imports at \$10 billion, while foreign currency revenue was only about six billion.

He said a deal with the IMF was needed. "There is no way out and we will have to endure," he put subsidies, a legacy of the socialist policies of late President Gamal Abdel Nasser, at 3.6 billion pounds (\$1.4 billion) a year.

Price rises for petrol and kerosene would save the Egyptian treasury 950 million pounds (\$355 million) a year, Oil Minister Abdel-Hadi Kandell said in remarks published today.

Turkey scraps power plant

ANKARA, May 7 (Reuters): Turkey has scrapped plans to build a big nuclear power plant on its Aegean coast after environmental objections, the Anatolian news agency said today.

It quoted Energy Minister Fahrettin Kirtas saying: "We have received stiff reaction for reasons of environmental pollution against the power plant to be built in Aliaga. All credits were secured but the project cannot come to completion."

A government decree published in today's official gazette said an earlier decree allowing expropriation of land in Aliaga, 50 km (30 miles) north of the port city of Izmir, for the construction of the twin-500 megawatt station was annulled.

"The government may later on take up the same project if it can satisfy the objections of the council of state before the court takes a final ruling. Or it may decide to drop it altogether," a ministry source said.

Thousands of Turkish greens marched in Izmir yesterday to protest at the plan to build the station.



Meeting in Casablanca

Joint airline

ALGIERS, May 7 (Reuters): Transport ministers from five North African states approved a draft agreement yesterday to form a joint airline, the Algerian news agency APS said.

The airline, dubbed Air Maghreb, would start alongside the existing carriers of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, which formed a regional economic grouping last year.

Officials have said the airline would start by serving selected cities within the region and gradually absorb routes, planes and crews of the five existing carriers.

The ultimate goal, agreed at a two-day ministers' meeting in Algiers, is a regional giant able to compete with European carriers that now dominate the heavy tourist, migrant worker and business traffic to and from North Africa.

APS said directors of the five airlines - Air Algerie, Libyan Arab Airlines, Air Mauritania, Royal Air Maroc and Tunis Air - would meet in Casablanca on June 5 to finalise the new airline's creation.

They would also discuss plans to begin integrating the airlines and coordinate equipment purchases, maintenance, training and insurance coverage, the agency said.

The five airlines agreed last week in Tunis to recognise each other's tickets automatically, share revenue on some lines, service each other's planes and run joint training programmes.

Dubai-based Emirates Airlines said on Sunday it had mandated two Dubai buses to finance the purchase of two Airbus A300-600R passenger aircraft.

A statement gave no amount or terms for the loans but said 20 banks which tendered for the financing met or surpassed the basic requirement for 85 per cent financing for a term of 10-15 years.



Robert Dole

Bush for full-scale budget negotiations

WASHINGTON, May 7 (UPI): President George Bush agreed with leaders of Congress yesterday to press for full-scale budget negotiations with no preconditions to bring the widening federal deficit under control, lawmakers said.

The congressional leaders emerged from 90 minutes of talks at the White House saying they would be back later in the week for further talks with Bush.

First they need to consult with other members of the House and Senate, they said.

But House Speaker Tom Foley, asked if things were now on track for full-scale budget negotiations with the White House, said, "I think that's going to be the outcome."

Foley and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell said they did not discuss any specifics with Bush,

including whether the president is now willing to budge from his no-new-taxes pledge.

But Foley said, "The assumption is that all matters would be on the table, that we would not enter any talks with preconditions."

Mitchell said, "There was a general agreement that any discussions will be without preconditions, if and when they occur."

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole said the lawmakers expected to meet again with Bush "late Tuesday" after conferring with other lawmakers, including leaders of the key budget and tax-writing committees.

Congress and the White House have made repeated efforts in recent years, both with former president Ronald Reagan and with Bush, to force grand compromises on the deficit.

France, UK plan faster plane

PARIS, May 7 (Reuters): France and Britain, who built the supersonic Concorde airliner 20 years ago, will announce plans this week to build a bigger, faster version of the plane capable of flying from Europe to Tokyo in five hours.

Aviation sources said makers British Aerospace and France's Aerospatiale planned a 200-seat "super-Concorde", to cut flying time. It currently takes conventional aircraft more than 12 hours to reach Japan from Western Europe.

Aerospatiale said today a new conference would be held on Wednesday to announce "an important agreement concerning studies of a new supersonic plane" but did not further comment.

The sources said the new plane, which both countries have been studying for years, would not fly before the end of this century and first flights would probably take place around 2005.

The two companies passed a major milestone in aviation history when they produced the world's first supersonic airliner but the plane was a commercial failure because of concern about noise and its limited range.

The aircraft has made a comeback in recent years. Most seats are sold on its scheduled routes and it has become popular as a fashionable charter aircraft, jetting the rich to exotic places.

New technology would allow the super-Concorde to fly at speeds of up to mach 2.4, only slightly faster than Concorde, but improved fuel consumption would allow it to fly further.

Initial studies of the plane have named it Fast, (Future Aircraft Supersonic Transport). The plane is seen as a bridge to the next century, when designers believe hypersonic travel will be introduced.

Such planes would fly from Western Europe to Tokyo in two or three hours.

Britain's Rolls Royce and France's Snecma, which developed the original Olympus engine for Concorde, would submit designs for the new plane's engines, but other aero-engine makers would also be invited to compete for the contract, the sources said.

India increases oil output target

Strikes banned

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 7: India has set itself a crude oil production target of 35.90 million tonnes during 1990-91 against the figures of 34.07 million tonnes achieved in 1989-90. Of this 21.84 million tonnes is expected from offshore and 14.06 million tonnes from onshore fields.

Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has been set a target of 33 million tonnes while the remaining 2.90 million tonnes of oil would be contributed by Oil India Limited (OIL), the other major public sector company.

The 1990-91 target for natural gas set at 10.72 billion cubic metres, with ONGC accounting for 9.92 billion cubic metres of exploratory drilling during the year, including 70,000 metres in offshore areas. The two companies are also expected to take up 6.41 lakh metres of development drilling during 1990-91.

Against the targeted 8,636 billion cubic metres of natural gas supplies during 1989-90, the actual achievement is anticipated to be 9,443 billion cubic metres.

According to preliminary estimates, India is expected to import 19.9 million tonnes of crude oil during 1990-91.

During 1989-90, imports of crude oil were estimated at 19.6 million tonnes at a total cost of Rs 3,919 crores. In the previous year, imports were 17.81 million tonnes at a value of about Rs 2,863 crores.

During 1988-89, exports of petroleum products was of the order of 2.3 million tonnes worth about Rs 524 crores.

The estimates for 1989-90 are exports of two million tonnes of oil and 2.1 million tonnes in 1988-89.

The oil sector's profit after tax during 1989-90 was anticipated to be at Rs 2,587 crores. It is budgeted to be at Rs 2,610 crores in 1990-91.

India banned strikes in oil fields and refineries today after officials and engineers in the state-owned industry threatened to stop work to demand higher pay, a spokesman said.

He said the ban applied to the entire oil sector, including production and supply of natural gas which the government has declared an essential service.

Oil industry engineers and officials, including managers, planned a one-day strike tomorrow. Last month they had offered a proposed three-day strike after talks with the government.

In Parliament, Petroleum Minister G. V. Ramani today declared the ban, saying the strike would be "utterly irresponsible" and "our doors are open for negotiations," he said.

WEST BERLIN, May 7 (Reuters): A US prosecutor announced today that a West German banker had long been barred entry for his wartime role. The bank said this was news to him - he visits the United States regularly.

Neal Sher, director of the US Justice Department's Nazi-hunting office, special investigations, said former Deutsche Bank chairman Hermann Abs was added to a US government "watch list" of undesirable aliens in 1983.

"There's something wrong there. He's visited the US frequently since 1983 and still holds a valid US visa," said Deutsche bank spokesman Helmut Hauptmann, who had asked Abs about the travel ban.

Sher told a World Jewish Congress meeting in West Berlin Abs had been in the United States in 1978 when John McCloy, former US High Commissioner in Germany, invited him to make a speech.

Sher's passing reference to Abs was the first time the banker, an alleged legendary figure in West Germany's post-war economic miracle, has been named as being on the watch list.

Leasing companies mull risks of burgeoning East Europe market

VIENNA, May 7 (Reuters): If an East European firm is knocking on doors seeking Western equipment to modernise its operations but hasn't got hard currency to pay right now, what can be done?

Consider leasing it, is an increasingly popular reply.

Western manufacturers worried about lending assets to Eastern European enterprises in shaky financial climate with only embryonic legal protection against default are looking more and more at contract hiring instead of outright sales.

One Austrian leasing company alone has landed four billion schillings (\$300 million) worth of Eastern European business in the few months since the overthrow of communist rule, its managing director

told Reuters during a recent conference on leasing in Vienna.

The conference, which highlighted the risks of entering the East European market, drew potential lessors of equipment from aircraft and trucks to computers and photocopyers.

For firms learning to stand alone after decades of communist central planning, a complete leasing package - equipment that comes with tailor-made financing and advice on building up a profit-making business - can seem irresistible.

"You say here's an asset, you can use it and pay us a rental fee. If things go wrong and you can't keep up the payments, you pay us compensation and we get the asset back," said corporate lawyer James Camp-

bell of London solicitors Gouldens.

Aviation, traditionally a strong leasing sector, is set to boom in the East bloc, says Rajinder Singh, regional airline sales manager for British Aerospace Plc's Commercial Aircraft Division.

"East European airlines want to be commercially driven and make inroads in Western markets," he said.

"They've realised they've got to operate equipment suitable to the West. The Western business traveller flying East is going to be very discerning, expecting reliability and service associated with Western aircraft," he said.

For now, Eastern European countries lack the banking, legal and tax structure for a fully fledged market economy. They have few people with up-to-

date business expertise and little modern equipment or cash to transform overnight.

But leasing experts say they can guide European enterprises on the road to Western-style business with projects that combine generating hard currency with producing goods for the region's variety starved domestic markets.

"This service is not altruistic," Johann Tassler, managing director of Oesterreichische Leasing, told the meeting. "A leasing company wants to ensure the project is successful to be sure of getting invested capital back with proceeds."

For all their optimism over a market just waiting to be priced open, delegates warned of potential hazards in fixing leasing deals in a region in flux.

BBC World Service

The Hindi Service

"ELATED and honoured" is how Kailash Budhwar, head of the Hindi Service, described his feelings when he was presented with the Vishwa Hindi Samman award recently. Given by the Institute of World Literature and Culture for services to Hindi outside India, he regards it as a tribute and recognition for BBC Hindi broadcasting as it celebrates 50 years on air.

The Hindi Service was set up as a messages programme for Indian troops during the Second World War. Its expansion since reflects the status of Hindi in the world today and has perhaps in some way contributed to it. "Hindi has now arrived and is very much on the map," says Kailash.

Most of the service's listeners are in India, but it has sizeable audiences in Nepal, the Gulf, Pakistan, Bangladesh and even, "by some quirk of frequencies", in California. At the last count there were an estimated 30 million adult regular listeners in

India alone, the largest for any of the BBC foreign language services.

The other major international broadcasters — Deutsche Welle, VOA, Radio Moscow and Beijing — accounted for no more than a third of that audience in total.

Historical links with Britain and widespread ownership of radios in rural India is only part of the explanation. "Without being immodest," says Kailash, "it is the quality that counts. We have built up credibility over the years and have been able to convince our listeners that what we tell them is without motive. They can trust us, knowing that we are as accurate and up-to-the-minute as humanly possible."

The Hindi Service broadcasts for 14 hours a week in four daily slots, each beginning with a news bulletin provided by the newsroom and translated. It is made up of 13 "front men" but, says Kailash, they could not function without the back-up received

from the rest of World Service.

All the broadcasters are from India, carefully chosen for their rich and varied backgrounds. This is considered essential in a comparatively small unit which is often regarded as a "walking encyclopaedia" on Indian matters and which provides a full back-up support service for the rest of the BBC, including national radio and TV.

Kailash, himself a history post-graduate fluent in Hindi and Urdu, was an actor-writer who also taught and "staff artist" with All India Radio in Delhi and Lucknow before joining World Service in 1970.

Like most of the staff he keeps involved in the Indian scene by going back to India whenever he can and keeps in touch by reading Indian newspapers and magazines — even listening to rival stations.

Kailash has scoured the archives in preparing for the anniversary celebrations this month. Plans include a host of special programmes, a pictorial history of the service in book form, an audience show in London and listeners' parties in India.

"We regard the history of the Hindi Service as the history of the past fifty years — of South Asia and the world," says Kailash.

A recent innovation means that Hindi speakers in Britain can now listen to broadcasts in their own language. BBC Radio Leicester in the Midlands is rebroadcasting the Hindi evening programme, and Kailash hopes this project will be the first of many.

Keeping in touch with the needs and views of its listeners is important to the service. Apart from surveys on the ground and postal questionnaires carried out by the audience research department, it receives a lot of feedback from other BBC departments which visit India.

But among the most important sources of information are the thousands of listeners' letters — last year there were 20,000-plus.

"It is said that at moments of crisis," says Kailash, "one can walk along a street in an Indian town and, without having a radio, can listen to our broadcasts from one end of the street to the other."

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.15 Songs
11.30 Cultural film
12.00 Educational programme
12.30 News in brief and closedown

Evening
4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 Cultural programme
6.00 Historical serial — Muslim judges
7.00 Songs
7.25 Cultural serial
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Daily Arabic serial

Layali Al Helmiya
10.30 Weekly Arabic serial
Al Nar Wa Al Ghurfa
12.15 News in brief
12.20 World Today via Satellite and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 A cartoon series for children
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club. The children have to give answers to questions raised about etiquette while going into a restaurant.
7.00 The Quran and Science. "Creation of Embryo". A look at genital organs and creation of the embryo after verses recited from the Holy Quran.
7.30 Kate and Allie. "I

don't I don't." Boh attempts to get rid of Allie... but matters take an opposite turn.

8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law. A weekly local informative programme on law and regulations
8.45 Bordertown.
9.15 Horizon. "Who will make me Better." A look alternative treatment. Traditional means do not work... such as psychotherapy and Chinese acupuncture.
10.00 Murphy Brown. "I would have danced all night". The invitation card addressed to Murphy reaches by mistake to another person. Murphy has to find the reason why she is not invited to the President's party.
10.30 Wolf. "Danny". Danny, a mentality



KTV2 8.45 — Bordertown

retarded man has to protect a young girl treated badly by her father but the police

accuse him of kidnapping her.
11.30 News in brief.
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite

BBC highlights

Bread, Hashish and Moonlight

DESPITE its long and illustrious tradition Arabic poetry remains little known outside the Arab world. In this new four-part series Robin Ostle explores its origins and developments beginning with the desert odes of pre-Islamic Arabia.

Wednesday, May 9 at 18:15

Omnibus

WHEN Deirdre Bair was working on her biography of Simone de Beauvoir appointments with the French philosopher and author usually began with Bair waiting outside the author's Paris apartment daring to ring the bell only on the dot of the appointed time. The book is published this month and in this programme Deirdre Bair talks of those working sessions. Mixed with extracts from the book the programme provides a double portrait of subject and biographer.

Tuesday, May 8 at 19:15 and
Wednesday, May 9 at 13:01

The Singing Stars

ROSEMARY CLOONEY was one of the great solo singers of the post-war decade. In this programme Malcolm Laycock traces her career through her recordings to discover how she became one of the forerunners of today's pop idols.

Tuesday, May 15 at 16:45

Round Britain Quiz

The London team of Irene Thomas and Eric Korn pit their wits against Peter Oppenheimer and John Julius Norwich, representing the Midlands, in this week's quiz chaired by Gordon Clough and Louis Allen.

Thursday, May 10 at 06:30.

Recommended frequencies:
17.64MHz/17.01m
15.07MHz/19.91m
11.76MHz/25.51m



Holiday Inn keeps pace with technology

Holidex 2000 is now 'On Line' at Holiday Inn Kuwait. The first computerised reservation system in the hotel industry, Holidex 2000 is the most versatile, cost-effective and reliable reservation system and is considered the best international reservation system in terms of speed and ease of use. Shown in the picture is the general manager, Fathi Abdennadher during the handover ceremony by Noel van Damme of Holiday Inn International.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushahri Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Isah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saïch Jame'el. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

SOCIAL

Hyderabad Mushaira

THE committee for celebrations of four centuries of Hyderabad Deccan, is going to hold a grand Mushaira, on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 8.00 pm at Carlton Tower Hotel, Faded Al Salem Street. Guest poets from Hyderabad will participate in it along with prominent local poets. A limited number of seats left. Reserve your seat now to avoid disappointment. For passes and more details call Khalish Hyderabad, on 4735591 ext. 34 (between 7 am - 12.30 pm).

ACT

ACT's production of "Voyages", an evening of words and music about travel, will be presented one night only at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School on Thursday, May 10, 1990. This readers theatre presentation includes selections of humorous and inspiring poetry and prose by contemporary and classical authors. 3KD admission includes light buffet. Call 5620332, 4-8 pm for reservations. Tickets are also available at the door.

Indian Arts Circle

HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Filecheck Inter-commercial Chess Tournay

THE Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filecheck) is now accepting entries for this year's Inter-Commercial Chess Tournament wherein each participating team will be composed of four regular players and two alternates. Group A rated players are qualified to play Boards 1 and 2 while Group B players will man Boards 3 and 4 with both groups having one alternate each. Non-Filecheck members can also be fielded but will have to take a series of tests to determine their individual rating.

The tournament is open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms are now available at the Filecheck headquarters at Tel. 240-2405.

Ladies International League SUMMER bazaar: Regency Palace Hotel, Friday May 11, from 10 am to 6.00 pm. Something for everyone.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC. Goan Charlie Chaplin — Janeito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebb Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

A PAINTING exhibition titled, Around the World, will be held at Kuwait International Hotel from May 8-16 by Mrs Luz Marina Colwell, an American citizen born in Colombia, South America. The exhibition will show subjects from different countries as well as a special section on Kuwait. It includes cityscapes, desertscapes, landscapes and Islamic designs. Tel.: 2530000.

Kuwait Singers

The Kuwait Singers present a Spring Frolic at the Gulf English School, Salwa, 8 pm, May 16, 17. Refreshments provided. Bookings: 5384873 & 3900922.

Around the World

THE United States Information Service has the pleasure of inviting you to an exhibition "Around the World" by American artist Luz Marina Colwell, starting Tuesday, May 8, 1990 at 5.30 pm, at the Kuwait International Hotel, Main Lobby. Exhibition will continue to May 16 from 9 am to 9 pm.

British Council

FEATURE FILM: After Pilkington, Saturday May 12 and Sunday, May 13 at 6.30 pm.

This won the prix Italia Drama Award in 1987. With a skillfully drawn framework of black comedy, the situation is deadly. Boh Peck, Miranda Richardson and Barry Forster render outstanding performance making more memorable the witty dialogue of Simon Gray's original screenplay.

CHILDREN'S FILM: Teddy Ruxpin, a rainbow of many colours, Wednesday, May 16 at 6.00 pm and Thursday, May 17 at 10.30 am.

Hurry! Don't miss Teddy and his friends escaping from a giant runaway strawberry and making a daring journey to Rainbow Falls.

Please book seats by calling Tel. Nos: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

Austrian festival

THE Kuwait International Hotel presents:

Viennese Opera Ball Orchestra (May 11): Having played across the world from New York to Berlin and Moscow, they will now present typical Viennese style of music in Kuwait. Conducted by Nobert Pawlicki one of the leading chef d'orchestra in Austria since a quarter of a century.

Viennese Opera Ball (May 12): Will present the traditional highlight of Vienna's social life — a night of the world, a night only Austria can create, a feat of never ending charm. The ancient stepping dance, Polonaise, will inaugurate the evening.

Folkloric band (May 13): From the high mountains of Austria the group, Laimeralm, will present a rich repertoire. They have been performing since the last three generations.

Cuisine from the City of Music (May 11-16): Throughout the week, La Palma will present unique creations from the famed "City of Music" with live entertainment. Tickets at: 2530000/2533000.

Konkani Theatre

MAY 10-11: Roseferns and his 15 member troupe arrive from Goa to present two Konkani dramas namely new release Xinxo at 7 pm (May 10) and repeated at 4 pm (May 11) and diamond jubilee completed Beiman Tum at 10.30 am on May 11 at Granada Cinema, Kheitan. Contrary to reports circulating, THIS IS NOT A LOCAL SHOW and Roseferns, popularly known as Goa's King of Centuries should not be mistaken for one local identical namesake in Kuwait. Tickets available at Raja Stores Tel. 2412970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506.

Canary Video 2459521 and Alex Martins, An Expatriate Club presentation.

Hungarian Festival

EXPERIENCE the culinary delight and cultural charm of Hungary at Kuwait International Hotel. A kitchen brigade from Duna Intercontinental, Budapest will prepare authentic cuisine featuring specialties like Hungarian chicken stew with Gnocchi, stuffed cabbage Grandmother Style, Fillet of Veal Budapest Style, Hortobagy Pancakes, Somlo Sponge Cake... and live gypsy music will set the mood for the occasion. Also features a "Raffle Draw" on May 10, in La Palma at 8.00 pm. Two return tickets to Budapest with room and breakfast for a week at Duna Intercontinental. Tickets on sale everyday. Festival continues up to May 10. Tel: 2530000.

Opefor get-together dinner

OVERSEAS Pakistani Engineer's Forum is an association of Pakistani Engineers to promote socio-cultural activities in Kuwait. They are holding a get-together dinner at the SAS Hotel Ballroom on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 7 pm. All members and their guests are welcome. For details, please contact: Khurshed Mozafer 2459609, Bader Khan 5610544, Abdul-Rahim 3901491. Any Pakistani engineer who would like to join Opefor may also contact the above office-bearers for enrollment.

Daniella Show Trip

FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Show trip for Dances has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am.

May Queen

Goan Welfare Society presents the prestigious time honoured May Queen Ball on 10th May at Habiba Ball Room of Messilah Beach Hotel to dine and dance to the live music of Top Ranks, an occasion full of competitions, quizzes, prizes, surprises and variety. Live music for young and old. Airline tickets to Europe and Goa, video, cosmetics sets, designer gifts, time-pieces, cameras, sportswear, complimentary dinners among other gifts await each of you. Collect your invitations to a superb evening from "Ancy" (2422314), Braz (4763674), Cajetan (5618971), Delphine (2448435), Mariano (3726374) and Newston (5637726).

Bangladesh general meeting

A general meeting of Bangladesh Library will be held on Friday the 11th May at 5.00 pm in the Bangladesh Embassy — Khalidiya.

All founder/lifetime members are requested to attend the meeting.

HOTELS

Messilah Beach Hotel

Al Mubarakiah restaurant: The only 24-hour restaurant/coffee shop in Kuwait. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner or any time for refreshments and snacks.

Wednesdays — special seafood promotions: Starting 7 pm with a selection of your favourite fish dishes prepared to your liking in the relaxed atmosphere decorated with that maritime touch and live background music.

Fridays — special buffet: A go go with a large variety of Middle Eastern and Continental dishes.

BBQ: Every Thursday night in Al Berdowneh the Beach Garden Restaurant offering Lebanese mezzas, grills, fresh salads.

Al Jawharah: Open every Thursday for a special evening of food, music and entertainment by the resident "Rainbow" band.

Ladies International League

May meeting: Come enjoy our meeting this month at the Holiday Inn Ballroom, Monday May 7.

Our programme this month is a traditional Middle East wedding demonstration which promises to be fun and exciting.

Doors open at 6 pm, doors close at 7.30 pm programme starts at 8 pm sharp. Door charge.

For details contact Ann on 5316905 or Bonnie on 4746706.

Kuwait Sheraton

RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night.

Hunt Room: The famous Hunt Room restaurant offers some of the best meat and fish preparation for lunch and dinner with live entertainment nightly.

Le Tarbouche: Open for lunch and dinner. Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold buffet dishes for families and friends.

Al Hamra: Enjoy the Arabian Night theme at the Al Hamra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style, nightly entertainment by Gili Amici and singer Maha.

SPORTS

Apollo Fitness Centre

ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch — Sun and Wed — 10.30 - 11.30 am; Apollo

Workout — Sunday — 5.30 - 6.30 pm, Tuesday — 5.00 - 6.00 pm; Fast'n'Fit (mixed) — Friday — 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness — 4.00 - 5.00 pm; Tuesday tr. at (mixed) — 6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop — 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts — Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo — Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga — enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tel. 4742000 ext. 6700.

Kuwait Rugby

Thursday May 17: 3rd Annual Fun-Run.

Thursday June 6, Oval Ball. If you would like details, information on any of these please contact S. Hill 5391720, G. Adams 5644533, R. Houston 5659435.

Kuwait 4th Annual Raft Race

MAY 11, 1990 starting at 9.00 am. Don't forget this Kuwait's most awaited, spectacular, water sports event of the year at Messilah Beach Hotel. Tickets are on sale in the hotel or at the main entrance on the day. Just bring your family and friends for a day out. Keep a look out in the papers for our advertising for full details or contact us on 5624111 ext 711/712/739/751.

CINEMA

Al Azzabi

Arabic film
Al Satmiah
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Time Burst
Drive-in
Arabic film

Al Firdous

Kala Bazaar
Fahadhel
Sone Ka Dil: I ohe Ka Hath

Fahadhel

Rolling Vengeance
Al Jahra
Humki

Granada

Oriz Vivado Vishayam
Sala Sikkhet
Taleween

Jalee

Bonar Mete Boon
Ahmed Drive-in
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr

Zuhr 3:33 am
Asr 11:44
Maghreb 3:20 pm
Isha 6:29
7:54



Le Meridien renovates

The kitchen of the Versailles Restaurant on the first floor of the Meridien Hotel was renovated during April. The entire kitchen layout was revised and new equipment was painstakingly installed. The changes will improve the flow in the kitchen, allowing faster preparation of a la carte items and ensure that they will arrive at the table at the proper temperature. Photo shows: An engineering team installing the new kitchen.

Bette Midler

Motherhood tames madcap star

By Judy Byrne

MOTHERHOOD has had an unexpected bonus for the once-outrageous Bette Midler. First, she admits, it tamed her. It also made her very happy.

Now it has turned out to be the key that unlocked the door to the only accolade she had left to earn — to be called a serious dramatic actress.

Bette has made that leap in her latest film *Stella*, which puts her firmly on the straight acting map in the role of a single mother torn between love of her daughter and the desire to give her the best possible start in life.

The 44-year-old Bette came to motherhood late and almost by accident. Daughter Sophie is only three and the star admits she was never the kind of woman who craved motherhood.

"If it hadn't happened, I wouldn't have run to a fertility clinic," she says. "But now I adore her. I dream about her and, when I wake up, I can't wait to see her."

And it meant that, when she read the script of *Stella*, she knew it was "the time in my life when it made most sense. It's the easiest thing for me to do now because I understand all that maternal emotion that comes out in the scenes I play with my screen daughter, Trini."

"I wouldn't have known about that passion without having had a child of my own."

The movie is the third screen version of the popular novel *Stella Dallas* by Olive Higgins Prouty, a touching story of a mother's sacrifice for the love of her daughter.

Legendary mogul Samuel Goldwyn made a silent drama of it in 1925 and 12 years later produced a now-classic talkie starring Barbara Stanwyck, who won an Oscar nomination for it.

Fifty years later, Samuel Goldwyn Jr decided he would like to make it again and approached screenwriter Robert Getchell about updating the story.

Getchell regarded the fact that he had seen the Stanwyck version on TV only the night before as a good omen. He agreed, and Goldwyn worked for more than a year to produce a contemporary re-working faithful to the spirit of the original story.

Bette Midler read it and agreed at once to star in the film. She said, "It's a brilliant script. You can't get through it without sobbing your eyes out."

But if she read the script with her eyes newly opened about motherhood, she was too slow to think it was quite that simple.

Crucial to the plot is the economic and physical struggle of working-class women bringing children up alone — a world away from the family life of the super-rich Midler.

So she went out to interview single mothers to prepare herself for the part. She said, "I only talked to women who were raising their children by themselves. I was surprised and devastated by their stories."

"Many of them live hand-to-mouth. They work long hours, often for minimum wages, and one of them received child support. They're struggling."

"They're not giving up and they have a positive attitude about the future. It was so interesting, really kind of heart-breaking. So this film is really for them."

It is for her mother, Ruth, too. She says, "I'm from working-class people. I know them well. My mother worked hard all her life. Even in the fifties, mothers were unsung heroes. This is a kind of hymn to her."

Director John Erman feels Bette was inspired casting. "I think she is the only actress around who could have brought this film off so well," he says.

"She is amazing in the sense that she is so bright that all you have to do is say a few words of direction to her."

"You give her a kernel and she says 'Ok. I've got that' and invents the most extraordinary things. Whatever you give her, she just turns it into gold."

It is a mark of the growing acting reputation of the former singer that co-star John Goodman, who plays Bette's long-time friend Ed in the film, accepted the role just for the chance to work with her.

He says, "I didn't care for Ed. He's a rumpus and I wouldn't want to hang out with him for too long. He's self-pitying and weak."

What made it for me was Miss Midler. I think the world's of her. She's got a great sense of despair that rubs off on me — plus she's a million laughs."

It was the same for Stephen Collins who plays the father of Bette's daughter. He says, "Bette is so remarkable that I don't even know where to begin talking about her."

"Aside from the fact that she's one of the great singers. She's truly bigger than life in the way stars should be."

All of which must be music to the ears of Bette after the disaster of her third film *Jin-jinx*, which resulted in her having a nervous breakdown.

Jin-jinx lived up to its name. It bombed with the critics and at the box-office.



Superstar Bette Midler, new role



Bette with co-star John Goodman in *Stella*



A scene from *Stella*, about a mother struggling to raise her daughter alone

And all that in the wake of a period when work had seemed, for once, to dry up and when her relationship with her manager Aaron Russo had just ended. Her mother died about the same time. It was more than she could take.

Eventually, she says, boredom drove her to pull herself together. "You say to yourself, 'I've done this now for three months. I've cried this many tears. I guess that is enough.'"

If Bette's mother was one of her inspirations for *Stella*, she was also one of the driving forces of her whole life.

Bette was the third of four children of housewife Fred Midler and "housewife" who, although very timid — she could barely cross the road on her own — instilled in us all

hugs and moving to New York at the age of 18.

She supported herself as a cloakroom girl, salesgirl and go-go dancer between children's theatre and minor revues until she won a role in the chorus of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Later she was "promoted" to play the eldest daughter and she did it for three years.

But if that was a breakthrough, tragedy also dogged her. Her oldest sister was knocked down and killed by a car on her way to see Bette in the show. That loss still haunts her.

She created a nightclub act with her own sassy brand of unscripted humour and sang around the New York clubs. In those days, Barry Manilow was her pianist and arranger. They are still friends.

The birth of daughter Sophie has seen an amazing change in the madcap star... and only her own maturity let her choose the screen role of a selfless mother which could finally put her on the map as a serious actress.

the idea that we could do what ever we set out to do."

Looking back on her childhood in Honolulu, Bette says, "One child brings me to my knees and I have help. My mother had four, no money, made all our clothes for us and still had time for us."

Sniff an infant. Bette won a school prize for singing *Silent Night*. "I got big applause and a light bulb went off in my head," she says.

Her mother, who named her Bette after Bette Davis but thought it was pronounced Bet, took her to see her first musical, *Carousel*, at the age of 12.

"I knew from then on that performing was the only thing I wanted to do," she says. My mother was four-square behind me. When I was the lead in the junior class play, she brought a bouquet of roses and ran up to the front after the performance and gave them to me over the footlights. Her face was shining."

Bette spent a year studying theatre at the University of Hawaii before packing her

He says, "She's amusing but she's actually very serious and bright and quiet, too. I always say she has the soul of a librarian."

Bette's work around the New York cabarets led to a record-breaking run at New York's Continental Baths, followed by a national tour and a recording contract with Atlantic records.

In 1975 she won a Grammy as Best New Artist for her album *The Divine Miss M*. The same year, she won a Tony for her appearance at Broadway's Palace Theatre.

The next few years were crowded — for TV there was *The Fabulous Bette Midler Show* and the Emmy-winning special *Old Red Hair & Back*, plus more albums.

Then, in 1979, she made the switch to movies with *The Rose* which won her an Oscar nomination and two Golden Globes, for Best Actress and Newcomer of the Year. And the soundtrack of the film went platinum.

The same year she opened in *Divine Madness* on Broadway and starred in the movie

adaptation of it. She followed that up with her literary debut *A View From A Broad and her second and third Grammys for the title song from *The Rose* and *Blueberry Pie*.*

So naturally when her next project, *Jin-jinx*, flopped so badly, it was a shock.

But she picked herself up and resumed an even more glittering series of successes — an illustrated baby book, *The Saga of Baby Divine*, and a comedy record *Mud Will Be Flung Tonight*.

There were a string of successful comedies for Touchstone Pictures including *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*, *Ruthless People*, *Outrageous Fortune* and *Big Business*.

Bette was the voice of the pampered poodle Georgette in Walt Disney's all-time highest-grossing animated feature *Oliver and Company* and has an unprecedented deal for four more pictures with Disney.

Five years ago, she formed the company All Girl Productions and last year the Midas-touch Midler produced *Beaches*, co-starring with Barbara Hershey. While she was working on *Stella*, the *Beaches* soundtrack album was cleaning up in the charts.

It ended as the year best-selling album, despite opposition from two releases to accompany the mega-hyped *Batman*.

Her huge success has coincided with personal happiness. In 1982 she met her future husband, commodities broker Martin Voo Haselberg (aka Harry Kipper, performing artist) at a Hollywood night club. They exchanged phone numbers.

"I didn't hear from him again for two years," she says. But within two months of their second date they were married. "People over fall for the right people when they are young," says Bette.

Martin is a new man — you know, someone who does his share to the house, looks after the children, does the cooking, washing his own socks. He is so stabilizing."

So delighted are they both with Sophie Frederica (after Bette's father) Aholani (Hawaiian for "bright sky") Kipper Midler that they would love another just like her. Bette was devastated by a miscarriage last year.

"There is something incredibly healing for me about having a baby," she says. "You feel complete."

So calming was the effect of motherhood that the outrageous humour softened and Bette admitted her worst vice had become a fondness for food.

But the curves in *Stella* of the actress who had made an estimated £160,000,000 from the five films before it are not necessarily all that they seem.

To age her for the later scenes, she had to wear pads that add an apparent 20lbs to her body and had weights in her boots to make her drag her feet a little. Her legs were disguised with varicose-veined leg pads.

Bette even had to take a bartending course and learn to use a sewing machine for the film. "I'm quite the housekeeper," she says.

"But I never expected I'd have to get out there and make a tuna casserole." On top of all that, she had to dance in the film.

But then nobody ever claimed she wasn't multi-talented.

Not that it matters so much to her these days. She says, "I used to call myself the last of the truly tacky women. Now I have a husband I love very much, who loves me very much, and I find that makes me look at everything differently."

"There is much more joy in my life. I don't pretend about things or shock anyone more."

ART

Tate Gallery subjected to first major 're-hang'

Big but not big enough

LONDON, (ICSM): The development of London's Tate Gallery — which this year is only seven years from its 100th birthday — has been a little like that of the great Gothic cathedrals — or at any rate like Topsy: it grew. But it still isn't big enough.

Originally built to house a national collection of British art, the Tate's size was doubled two years after its opening. More galleries were added in 1910 to house paintings by J.M.W. Turner. Works were added in 1919, when it was decided the Tate should cover all periods of British art. The years 1926 and 1937 saw more galleries opened, and by then the museum had shouldered a second function: to be the national collection of "modern foreign art."

In 1979 further galleries opened. A completely new wing was appended three years ago as (presumably) the final answer to the problem of properly displaying the enormous Turner holdings. But increasingly, the Tate has had to face a predicament. It actually hides far more works of art than it displays. Roughly a third of the collection only is on view at any given time.

In view of this, the idea of setting up a regional branch seemed justifiable, and in '88 "The Tate Gallery Liverpool" opened beside the River Mersey. The catch is, if you want to see all of the Tate's Glaiometti bronzes or Ben Nicholson reliefs, you'll have to travel to Liverpool — unless you live there.

At the end of 1988, however, the Tate (London) acquired a new director, Nicholas Serota. Now, over a year later, he has suddenly made a dramatically profound mark on the place. It is not too much to say that he has transformed the gallery completely.

Serota has subjected the museum to its first major "re-hang" since the 1960s.

For me, having been a persistent visitor to the Tate Gallery for at least 30 years, Serota's new hang comes like a highly refreshing revelation. It is like visiting a new museum — an impression helped not a little by a fair amount of new paint, new lighting, and, brilliantly, the removal of a remarkable number of screens and false, lowered ceilings. It is now possible thoroughly to enjoy the interior of this building itself, not at all without virtues.

There is also a less cluttered sense of the artworks within. Old favourites are encountered, of course; some "masterpieces" and key works of the collection simply cannot be relegated to the dungeons, but they have been "awakened" by being placed next to unexpected neighbours.

Serota has taken the Tate's two basic problems — its split personality ("British" and "Modern Foreign") and its lack of space — and tried, with some ingenuity and a great deal of good sense, to turn them into advantages.

His radical re-hang is a radical re-think. He has concluded that the peculiarity of the Tate's collection would be better termed its "distinctiveness."

Before, the essentially symmetrical layout of the building made it possible to house two galleries, virtually separate from each other. On the left side of the long central hall was "Historic British," on the right, "Modern" or 20th-century art, both foreign and British.

Serota writes: "This was exciting and reflected the aspirations of many of the most accomplished British artists." To other words, modernist British artists.

But Serota suggests that the concentration on modern British artists meant that certain British visionaries, eccentrics, academicians, and even expressionists and realists didn't really fit in. It was as if the international modernism that swept the post-war art world defined exclusively who should

be shown and who shouldn't. Now things have changed. Now "modernism" is thought, by people like museum directors, to be just one aspect of a rich multi-pattern of art. And in terms of the Tate Gallery re-hang, it means a wonderful potpourri view of the collection, with all kinds of new juxtapositions and insights.

In some cases, works that have been buried in the vault for generations have been given position of pride. All kinds of 20th-century British art is presented face to face with contemporary art from other parts of the world. And when the re-hung Gallery 11 reopened last month, even French Impressionism has to share a gallery with the British artists.

Who knows, perhaps the work of Philip Wilson Steer, Laura Knight, and S.J. People might still hold some surprises after all. Though how it holds its own in direct confrontation with Cezanne, Renoir, and Monei is not without a certain breathtaking interest.

What Serota has proposed is that the Tate Gallery is really, primarily, about British art. (He is surely recognising that regionalism has its own special value rather than indulging in some form of chauvinism.) "Foreigners" must be seen in a British context, not the other way round.

True, some 20th-century British artists measured themselves against Paris or New York. Some today measure themselves against recent German art. Some live and work in California. But some have measured themselves against little other than their own inspiration, their own inner urgencies. This may be the most interesting group of all — people like the religious visionary Stanley Spencer or the dream-landscapist Paul Nash, both of whom have been given major gallery space as never before.

So, at least, the argument might go. If these artists seem merely insular, provincial figures — even embarrassingly British in their lack of concern for the rest of the world — then may be it is that which makes them all the more intriguing.

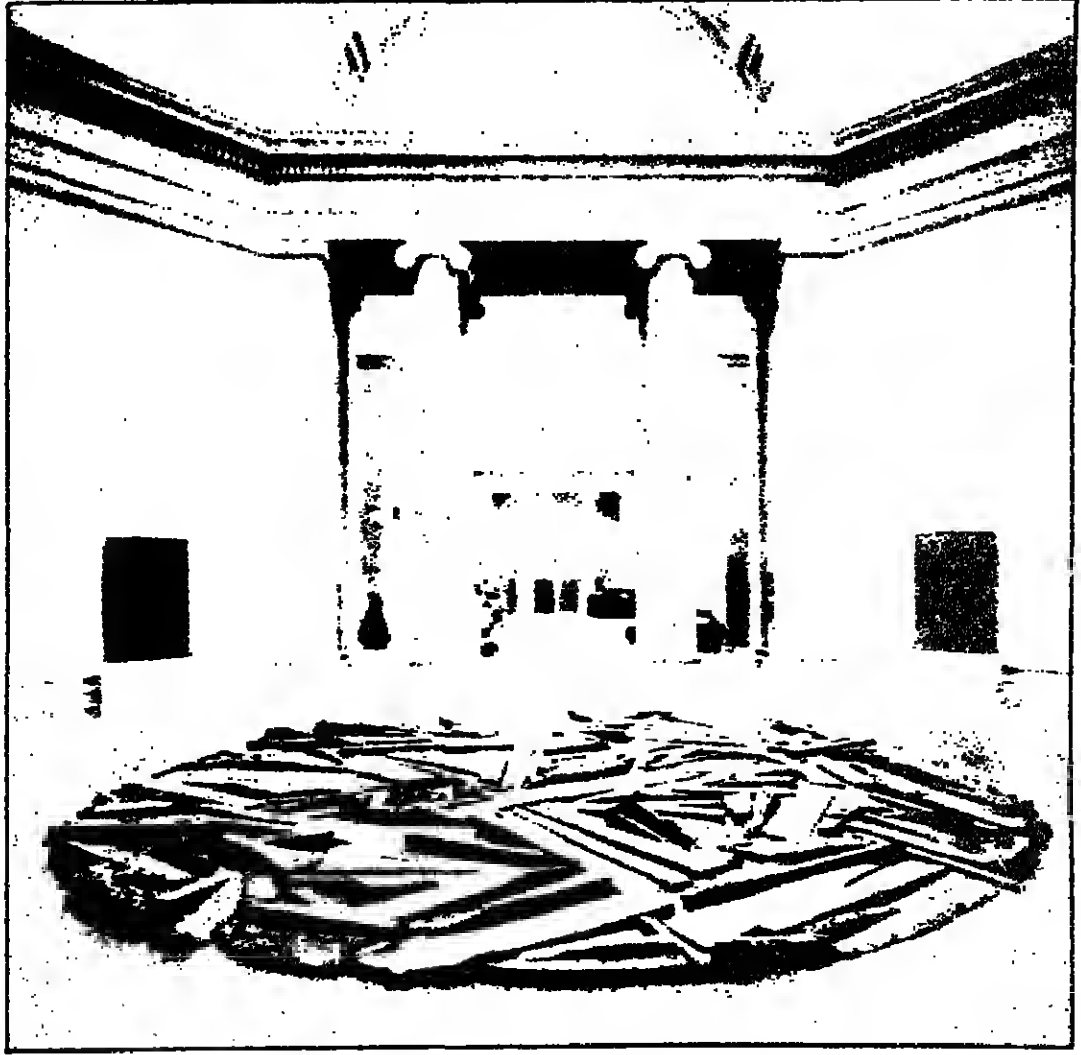
In the 18th-century gallery, we find the telling juxtaposition of John Singleton Copley's "The Death of Major Peirson," a grandiose history painting, with two paintings by George Stubbs. Here, Stubbs was fascinated by the sublime awfulness of wild animals attacking each other, though he may be more conventionally thought of as a "horse-painter-to-the-geity."

In some instances, totally unfamiliar works now rub shoulders with old chestnuts. The "Bloomsbury and Vorticist" gallery contains unknown works by Vanessa Bell, while "Neo-Romanticism and Henry Moore" includes one or two almost unheard-of artists.

Standing in the Stanley Spencer gallery, amid his strange, chattering narratives crowded with bulbous figures caught up in religious moments like Jesus's resurrection, one catches through the doorway a glimpse of a strong, stark uncompromising Mondrian — a grid of black verticals and horizontals with strict rectangles of primary colour. Spencer and Mondrian belong to the same time period and even the same continent. Yet they belong to different universes. Or do they?

If a museum can set forth such surprising resonances, it is surely on the right track.

Besides the re-hang, Serota's solution to lack of space includes, come September, a further re-hanging of some of the 20th-century galleries. In other words, the Tate will never be the same for long. Such a tactic, while undoubtedly hard on the curators, is like a breath of fresh air for the visitors. It makes a museum kinetic, which is exactly what a modern museum ought to be.



Richard Long's 'Slate Circle' (1979) at London's Tate Gallery.

Making Peace With The Planet, by Barry Commoner

(Pantheon, 292 pp. \$19.95)

BARRY COMMONER is something of a loner in the environmental movement and his new book, marking the 20th anniversary of Earth Day shows why.

Avoiding both the occasional techno-babble and mysticism of some environmentalists, Commoner writes a sensible, straightforward prose that means to inform, educate and persuade.

But Commoner is also a loner because he stands outside the mainstream of the environmen-

Sensible, readable Earth Day volume

tal lobbyists in the positions he takes. "Making Peace With The Planet" is certain to offend movement activists who move along the corridors of corporate and political power.

Commoner's argument — put frankly and bluntly in this provocative book — is simple: the massive environmental movement launched 20 years ago with the first Earth Day has been a costly, staggering failure.

"Making Peace With The Planet" will anger a lot of environmentalists but make a great deal of sense to people struggling against a local toxic waste dump or a nuclear power reactor. Radical and readable, prophetic and sensible, it is likely to be the most important book published in connection with Earth Day.

Algeria prepares for tourist 'invasion'

By Philip Shehadi

SIDI FREDJ, Algeria. (Reuters): On golden Mediterranean beaches west of Algiers where the French landed 160 years ago, workers are preparing for a new invasion — a welcome one, this time.

A sprawling "vacation village" across the bay from majestic Mount Chenoua marks Algeria's renewed interest in international tourism after 20 years of shunning it.

"People have the impression Algeria does not want to develop its extraordinary tourist potential," said Athmane Sahnoun, managing director of the new National Tourism Bureau. "We're trying to change that."

Eager for hard currency to shore up a sagging economy, Algeria will soon open its first foreign-run hotels and launch a publicity drive in Western Europe to change its outdated image as a political "Cuba of the Mediterranean."

Algeria offers magnificent sites just an hour's flight from Europe, rivaling those drawing millions every year to neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco.

Virgin beaches, Roman and Islamic monuments, winter skiing and stunning Saharan and folkore, linked by reasonable

good transport, lie in wait for holidaymakers.

But sub-standard hotels and government neglect have for years discouraged all but the most adventurous travellers.

The country flirted with mass tourism in the late 1960s after winning independence from France, but its socialist government soon lost interest.

Filthy sheets, poor service and bad food have made many Algerian hotels the butt of tourist jokes and horror tales.

"I opened up my shaving kit and five minutes later it was full of cockroaches," groaned one American resident just back from a hotel in the interior.

Giant 1970 tourist complexes along the coast, built by French architect Fernand Pouillon with arches and minaret-like towers, are peeling and run-down.

Now Azur Plage, 20 km (13 miles) west of the capital, is vying with the Algiers Sofitel to be the first foreign-run hotel in the country. They are due to open in August.

An 18-million-dollar state-owned hangar complex will be managed by the Kuwaiti Abu Nawas Chain and Sahnoun says several French and Italian tour operators are keen to sign up.

When money began pouring into

Algeria after the 1973 oil price boom, its rulers decided tourist facilities should be run by Algerians, for Algerians.

The policy began to change again with an economic crisis in the mid-1980s, caused largely by tumbling revenues for oil and gas exports.

Sahnoun estimates that of 450,000 foreign visitors last year less than 50,000 were genuine tourists, compared to three million expected this year in Tunisia.

His bureau plans to open offices in Paris, Milan and Frankfurt to promote tourism and seek private investment for hotels.

The Italian group Alfra has already formed a joint venture with Central Tourism Enterprise for a series of hotels with a total of 5,000 beds throughout the country.

South Korean Daewoo Corporation is investing in a Hilton Hotel to open in Algiers next year.

Two Pouillon-designed hotels in Sidi Fredj being renovated at cost of \$5m will be handed to foreign managers next year.

Sahnoun rejects the popular notion that illiterate, nationalistic Algerians are incapable of waiting on tables or greeting guests with a "yes sir" smile. But he says education is needed to "inculcate a tourist culture among our people."

The first 100 employees of Azur Plage are to be trained in Tunisia.

Sahnoun says he is unconcerned by the growing strength of Muslim fundamentalism in Algeria.

Fundamentalists forced the closure of a restaurant serving foreign tourists in central Algiers during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Officials say they are anxious to learn from the mistakes of their neighbours and do not want concrete high-rises up and down the coast.

"I have said no to reckless development," said Sahnoun, citing Spain's Costa Del Sol. "We will do everything to preserve our natural and cultural environment, and focus on a certain number of well-defined, quality niches that meet demand in Western Europe."

One of those is the Sahara Desert, already known to adventurers who visit the Hoggar and Tassili National Parks for jeep and motorcycle treks through lunar-like landscapes dotted with oases and prehistoric rock paintings.

The World Tourism Organisation recently approved plans to set up an international research and training centre in the South Saharan city of Tamarassat.

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SPORTS

Fans jeer Italy's Cup players

FLORENCE, Italy, May 7. (Reuters): Soccer fans jeered, kicked and spat at members of Italy's national squad as they arrived in Florence for their first World Cup training camp.

Some 3,000 fans, many of them supporters of local club Fiorentina, blocked the car carrying Juventus striker Salvatore Schillaci. For several minutes they shouted insults at the player, spat at the vehicle's windows and kicked the bodywork.

Police said only the timely arrival of reinforcements cleared the car's path and prevented the incident becoming more serious.

Fiorentina are due to play Juventus in the second leg of the all-Italian UEFA Cup final on May 16. Juventus won the first leg in Turin 3-1.

Ex-Fiorentina player Nicola Bertl, now with Internazionale Milan, had to complete the final 500 metres to Florence's Coverciano Training Centre in a police car as fans jeered and screamed "traitor".

Former Juventus president Giampiero Boniperti, who left his post to head Italy's World Cup delegation, also had to run the gauntlet of hostile fans.

"The fans have got to calm down. This is the

team of all Italians and anyone who needs to express his dissatisfaction should go and let off steam somewhere else," said Italy's national coach Azeglio Vicini after yesterday's incident.

Seven youths were detained for identification by police but later released.

Misbehaviour by Fiorentina fans in the UEFA Cup semifinal against Werder Bremen last month led to a ban which forces Fiorentina to play the second leg of the final against Juventus at a stadium at least 300 kms away from Florence.

A decision on the venue is expected in the next few days.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Corsica rally

AJACCIO, Corsica, May 7. (Reuters): Leading standoffs in the Tour of Corsica rally today after the first four special timed sections of the second stage: 1. Didier Aurio (France) Lancia Delta Integrale one hour 41 minutes 34 seconds; 2. Yves Loubet (France) Lancia Delta Integrale 16 seconds behind; 3. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Toyota Celica 24; 4. Francois Chatriot (France) BMW M3 40; 5. Armin Schwartz (West Germany) Toyota Celica 1:14; 6. Bruno Saby (France) Lancia Delta Integrale 2:08; 7. Francois Descelour (France) Peugeot 309 GTI 5:35; 8. Marek Duz (Belgium) Ford Sierra Cosworth 9:23; 9. Raimund Baumschlager (Austria) VW Golf GTI 9:33; 10. Laurent Poggi (France) Citroen AX Sport 9:37.

Dunhill bridge

BRIDGE players from Kuwait travel to Dubai this weekend to take part in the showpiece on the Gulf bridge calendar, the Dunhill International Middle East Championship. The two day event gets underway on Thursday at 1 pm, and is being jointly organised by the Dubai and Sharjah Bridge Associations. The tournament has had an overwhelming response, and teams from India, Pakistan, Oman and Kuwait, will battle for honours against the best players from around the emirates. Twenty eight teams have already registered for the competition, including two from India and two from Pakistan.

Capriati triumphs

ROME, May 7. (AP): Fourteen-year-old Jennifer Capriati of the United States looked strong in her European professional debut today overpowering Czechoslovakian Leona Laskova 6-0, 6-3 in the first round of the Italian Open. Playing on centre court of the Foro Italico, the No. 12-seeded Capriati needed just 50 minutes to dispatch her overmatched opponent.

Earnhardt wins

TALLADEGA, Alabama, May 7. (AP): Dale Earnhardt outmuscled Greg Sacks over the final 17 laps to win a battle of dominating Chevrolet Lumina in yesterday's National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing Winston 500 at Talladega Superspeedway.

Egypt friendly

CAIRO, May 7. (Reuters): Egypt's soccer manager, fearing unruly fans could damage the morale of his World Cup side, wants to play a friendly against Colombia 500 km south of the Egyptian capital.

Cup security

Zurich, May 7. (Reuters): Fifa vice-president, Henri Delmotte, has today denied newspaper reports he had criticised security arrangements for next month's World Cup finals in Italy.

Brazil slammed

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, May 7. (AP): Brazilian media criticised its national soccer team yesterday, a day after the squad beat Bulgaria 2-1 in an exhibition match seen as a key tune-up for next month's World Cup. "The Brazilian team played badly, made errors, but was able to beat Bulgaria," said the Rio Daily O Globo.

Appeal rejected

BERNE, May 7. (Reuters): An appeal by Partizan Belgrade of Yugoslavia against a 50,000 Swiss francs (\$33,000) fine for fans' misbehaviour in a European Cup Winners' Cup tie has been rejected by Uefa's appeals board.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, May 7. (Reuters): Result of the National Hockey League Stanley Cup semifinal playoff game yesterday, Campbell Conference finals: Chicago Black Hawks 5, Edmonton Oilers 1 (Black Hawks lead best-of-seven series 2-1).

Sheikh Fahd congratulated

KUWAIT, May 7. (Kunat): The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohamed has sent a cable of congratulations to the chairman of the Asian Olympic Council and the Kuwait Soccer Association Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad on his election as vice-president of the Federation of International Football Association (Fifa).

Sheikh Nasser, in the cable, congratulated Sheikh Fahd on winning the vice-presidency of the Fifa for Asia, he said that this victory was in appreciation and recognition of Sheikh Fahd's sincere endeavours to serve Arab, Asian and international sports.

"This win is indeed a medal for Kuwaiti youth," the official said, stressing that it would be an incentive for relentless work in favour of youth and sports.

Agassi outplays Yzaga for crown

American overcomes muscle strain



Andre Agassi

ROSWELL, Georgia, May 7. (UPI): Andre Agassi's own impatience and a minor muscle strain forced the flamboyant American to work hard for a straight-set victory over Jaime Yzaga in yesterday's final of the AT&T Challenge.

Agassi suffered the injury while cruising through the first set of his 6-2 6-4 victory over Yzaga on the slow clay courts, then fended off the Peruvian's stubborn challenge in the 72-minute match.

"It happened at 4-1 in the first set," said Agassi, who blamed his mid-match lapse on the nagging injury. "I felt a little sore, and it got worse."

"I didn't want the long points. He won 90 per cent of the long points because I couldn't move. I've seen better days."

Agassi, who has lost 35 winners to just 13 for Yzaga, immediately left the court after the victory to get treatment.

His trainer, Gil Reyes, said Agassi suffered a slight strain to his soleus muscle while racing for a drop shot. Agassi iced the strained calf muscle after the match, and Reyes said the injury

likely would not prevent the American from playing in the German Open this week in Hamburg.

Agassi, who turned 20 last week, said Yzaga's playing style that relies on long baseline rallies "magnified the problem" of his injury.

"He likes to play long points and so do I," said Agassi, the world's fourth-ranked player. "But today I couldn't stay out there forever because (injury) was getting worse."

The match ended on a disputed line call, with Yzaga claiming Agassi's eighth service ace landed just wide. Yzaga, 22, argued briefly with the chair umpire before finally shaking the winner's hand as the tournament trainer tended to Agassi's sore leg.

"It was clear out," said Yzaga, ranked 28th on the Association of Tennis Professionals tour.

Agassi began the match at a furious pace, using a lethal combination of baseline consistency and overpowering groundstrokes to overwhelm Agassi's softer touch shots.

Atlas beat Colombia

CHICAGO, May 7. (Reuters): Atlas de Mexico upset the Colombian World Cup soccer team 1-0 on penalty kicks to win the Marlboro Cup tournament yesterday.

Atlas beat Colombia's star goalkeeper Rene "El Loco" Higuita, hitting four consecutive penalty kicks to only one of three taken by Colombia after both teams failed to score in regulation and in two 15-minute overtime periods.

Higuita was overshadowed by Roberto Siboldi, the 24-year-old Atlas goalkeeper from Uruguay, who made two brilliant saves on shots by Freddy Rincon and Arnold Iguaran during overtime. He also foiled Rincon's penalty attempt.

The game was marked by 42 fouls and eight yellow cards, five to Atlas and three to Colombia. Colombia waited patiently to attack, but Atlas kept Colombia from getting any decent shot on goal until late in the second half when Ruben Dario Hernandez hit the crossbar.

India recall Vengsarkar for tour of England

BOMBAY, May 7. (Reuters): India recalled former captain Dilip Vengsarkar today for this year's three-test England cricket tour in a 16-man squad with only two players over 30.

Mohammad Azharuddin will lead the team which includes former captains in 34-year-old batsman Vengsarkar and 31-year-old all-rounder Kapil Dev.

"It's a team for the 90s because only two players are over 30," selection committee chief Raj Singh Dungarpur commented.

Azharuddin was appointed India's third captain in the space of four months for the tour of New Zealand earlier this year, his side lost the three Test series 1-0.

"It will be a tough Test series for us, because we have not been winning," Azharuddin said.

"It is a balanced batting side.

We picked Vengsarkar for his experience. Our leg spinners will add variety. Narendra Hirwani bowls conventional leg spin and (Anil) Kumble bowls flatter."

The tour will give Vengsarkar a chance to add another century to the three he has scored on each of his three previous visits to Lord's.

The squad will travel to Bangalore for training from June 1-15 before leaving for England on June 22. The first match is against Yorkshire on June 30.

India: Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Ravi Shastri, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Wakeri Venkataraman, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar, Dilip Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev, Kiran More, Manoj Prabhakar, Atul Wasan, Sanjeev Sharma, Venkatarathnam, Narendra Hirwani, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble.

Spain name squad for World Cup



Gonzalez, one of the 1986 veterans

MADRID, May 7. (Reuters): Spain have opted for a mixture of youth and experience and a heavy reliance on League champions Real Madrid in their World Cup squad announced today.

There were few surprises in the squad of 22 which included six veterans from the Mexico World Cup and reflected the domination of Real Madrid, winners of a fifth successive League title.

Cosch Luis Suarez recalled Real Madrid's striker Emilio Butragueno who shot to international fame with five goals in Mexico and veteran goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta of Barcelona.

The other 1986 veterans are Real Madrid's defender Miguel Chendo and midfielder Michel Gonzalez, Barcelona's forward Julio Salinas, and substitute goalkeeper Juan Carlos Ablanedo from Sporting Gijon.

Suarez also opted for youth with Real Madrid's defender Fernando Hierro, Zaragoza's midfielder Francisco Villaverde and forward Miguel Pardeza, a former Real Madrid player.

Second-placed Valencia provide promising back Quique Sanchez Flores and midfielder

Fernando Gomez.

The Spanish squad, due to play their first group E game against Uruguay on June 13, will leave Madrid for Trieste on May 17 and play their last major warm-up against Yugoslavia in Ljubljana the following week.

Ablanedo was preferred to Real Madrid's Francisco Buayo because he let in only 26 goals in 31 games this season.

Besides Chendo and Butragueno, Suarez picked two Real Madrid defenders and two midfielders, including this season's star Rafael Martin Vasquez, who is expected to announce his departure to Juventus shortly.

Hierro and Athletic Bilbao's Rafael Alkorta had seemed unlikely candidates earlier but earned their caps with good end-of-season performances.

Barcelona's Jose Maria Bakero, absent from recent selections due to injury, was recalled for his experience and goal-scoring capabilities despite playing deep.

But Suarez surprisingly failed to include Barcelona's midfielder Aitor Beguiristain, Eusebio Sacristan and Luis Milla. Barcelona recently dropped Milla because of a row over pay.

Gullit named in provisional Dutch squad

AMSTERDAM, May 7. (Reuters): Dutch national soccer coach Leo Beenhakker has named AC Milan star Ruud Gullit in a provisional squad of 27 for the World Cup finals, starting next month.

Gullit, 27, recently returned to competitive soccer after almost a year out of the game following three knee operations.

Beenhakker of Ajax Amsterdam, appointed interim coach for the World Cup earlier this month, has invited the players to join a 10-day training camp from May 14. He will then whittle the squad down to the 22 he can take to Italy.

He hopes to have his AC Milan trio — Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard — available for at least some of the period. They are required by their club for the European Cup final with Benfica on May 23.

He has named such a large squad as a number of regular internationals are recovering from injuries, including defenders Berry van Aerle and Adrie van Tiggelen and midfielder Erwin Koeman.

The squad contains all the players from the Dutch 1988 European championship winning side except Arnold Mulren, who has since retired.

Ajax midfielder Richard Witschge is expected to fill Mulren's place as the Dutch again rely heavily on the "golden team" which took them to that European triumph.

The squad contains seven of Beenhakker's championship winning Ajax side with goalkeeper Stanley Menzo taking the third goalkeeping spot behind Hans van Breukelen and his deputy Joop Hiele.

Debut hat-trick

MADRID, May 7. (Reuters): An amazing 15-minute hat-trick from substitute Enrique Cuchart playing his first senior game snatched second place for Valencia on the final day of the Spanish League soccer season yesterday.

Valencia's 4-0 home win against Logrones gave them 53 points, nine behind Real Madrid, champions for the fifth year running, but two ahead of Barcelona who lost 2-0 in Zaragoza.

Boginskaya excels again

ATHENS, May 7. (Reuters): All-round champion Svetlana Boginskaya of the Soviet Union won four more gold medals in individual exercises yesterday to complete a triumphant performance in the women's European Gymnastics Championships.

Boginskaya, who said after taking the all-round crown on Saturday that she would retire in August because she was too old for the sport at 17, extended her golden successes firstly in the vault, her 1988 Olympic winning apparatus.

On the asymmetric bars, the apparatus on which she had never won a medal, she was relaxed and graceful, sharing first place with up-and-coming team-mate, Natalia Kalinina and another newcomer, Mirela Pasca of Romania.

After passing her toughest test, Boginskaya then gave two brilliant performances on the balance beam and floor to earn clear 10,000 marks on both occasions.

On the beam, the 1989 world and European all-round champion produced three immaculate back-

wards vaults, plus a triple backwards which stunned her rivals.

On the floor, Boginskaya performed an exercise to complete her quartet of golds.

Kalinina, virtually unknown before, when she took the all-round silver medal, superb second place on the beam to provide worth in the absence of injured Soviet Olga Strageva, Natalya Laschenova and Olga Doudnik.

The 1989 European asymmetric bars champion Henrietta Onodi of Hungary would have the feat with her swift and difficult exercise, carefully touched the floor with a foot and dropped to last place.

The petite, tearful Onodi, who missed the round silver by a thousandth of a point, overtook on the beam but saved her day by taking joint top spot on the floor.

Spain's Eva Rueda, fourth in the all-round event won the first ever European Championships medal for her country by taking bronze in the vault.

Bilardo looking for goal spree in friendly

BERNE, May 7. (Reuters): Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo has high hopes of a long overdue goal-spree when the world champions face a largely inexperienced Swiss side in a soccer friendly tomorrow.

Their eight-match goal drought was finally ended last Thursday when Jorge Burruchaga scored in the 1-1 draw against fellow finalists Austria.

With Diego Maradona hitting top form at the right time to take Napoli to their second Italian championship title, Bilardo is convinced his captain could pose a big problem for Switzerland.

"In this mood he will be quite unpredictable and so very dangerous. They will have all kind of problems containing him. Inspired by him I hope there will be plenty of goals," he said.

Bilardo admitted his players have not looked like world beaters in recent matches but said the match against Austria was the first time in six months he had been able to assemble a complete squad.

"Things were much easier in 1986," he said. "Then 14 players were in home clubs. This time 12 are in Europe and one each in Colombia and Mexico. Cohesion on the field is lacking and it must improve."

Switzerland's West German coach Uli Stielke can again call on St Etienne's experienced libero Alain Geiger, who missed the last two games because of French League commitments.

Also back is Servette striker Kubilay Turkulmaz, absent from the 2-1 win over Romania last month because of suspension.

Switzerland (probably) — Philipp Walker, Alain Geiger, Marc Hotzger, Dominique Herr, Herbert Baumann, Heinz Hermann, Marcel Kolter, Alain Sutter, Philippe Herzig or Blaise Piffaretti, Adrian Knup, Kubilay Turkulmaz.

Argentina (from) — Sergio Goycochea, Neri Pumpido, Jose Luis Brown, Nestor Fabbri, Nestor Lorenzo, Pedro Monzon, Oscar Ruggeri, Jose Semizuela, Roberto Sensi, Juan Simon, Edgardo Bauza, Abel Balbo, Jose Basualdo, Sergio Batista, Jorge Burruchaga, Diego Maradona, Gergio Olarticochea, Pedro Troglio, Claudio Caniggia, Gustavo Dezou, Jorge Valdano.

Tareq wins first gold

THE 2nd Arab Police Judo Championship was inaugurated Sunday evening at the Qadisiya club by the Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sahab. Eleven Arab countries — Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Palestine, Jordan, North Yemen, Qatar and Kuwait, are taking part in the championship. The opening ceremony was attended by a number of top officials and sports leaders.

Immediately after the ceremony, Kuwait won the first gold medal when Tareq Al Gharib defeated the Algerian Zaiboush Khalifa in the 95 kg category. Reda Mohammad of Tunisia also won a gold medal in the over-95 kg category by defeating Waleed Said of Jordan.

Today, the preliminary and final bouts for the 65 and 71 kg category will be held at Qadisiya club. In the first category, Kuwait's Hussain Safar is competing in the first group while in the second Kuwait's Adel Al Najadah is competing also in the first group.

Yesterday, Sheikh Salem received at his office the heads of participating delegations.



Sheikh Salem with heads of delegation.



One of the delegation chiefs (centre) presenting a shield to Sheikh Salem.

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